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VIDELA MARKS SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF TAKEOVER

PY300131Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 30 Mar 78 PY

[Speech by President Jorge Rafael Videla on second anniversary of military takeover delivered in Buenos Aires during a governors conference--live]

[Text] Ministers, governors and intendents: I find it appropriate to take advantage of this governors meeting, which coincides with the second anniversary of the government of the armed forces, to express to you, and through you to the country, some thoughts and ideas which provide the basis for a new period of the process of national reorganization.

A few days ago we said that the country is on its feet and that it is now necessary to make it walk. With these words we wanted to summarize the works which we have all carried out with effort and with understanding in these 2 years which are ending and the exciting task which is awaiting us.

We now have quite a different country from the one we found in March 1976. It is not, of course, the country we would like, but it is already the nation which is ready to reach its great destiny. The country we longed for is the country we must build--a modern country where pluralist democracy, economic development, social justice and an independent international policy will be carried out simultaneously.

During these 2 years the foundation has been laid, and this will make it possible to face the new stage: economic reorganization and firm progress on the road of peace.

The important achievements made in this area cannot make us forget the significance of subversive aggression in our country. This all-out struggle has cost much bloodshed and tears. The names of our heroes and martyrs, soldiers and civilians who died carrying out their duties will forever remain in the history of the nation, a nation which regained its right to live in peace and freedom. This struggle has not ended yet. Subversion has been reduced to isolated actions which are more the result of individual desperation than truly organized actions. We Argentines also shared the anguish experienced by other peoples who were victims of terrorism. As a result of these harsh circumstances perhaps we will now find the understanding we did not have when subversion attacked with its criminal acts.

The struggle to gain peace today has a specific meaning. It is a constructive task which means basically to structure a nation where the individual may be completely fulfilled, may exercise his rights and may assume his responsibilities within the framework of a free society. This is the type of peace which we will build; this is the type of peace which deserves to be lived.

Regarding economic reorganization, we have experienced some progress, but there are still some problems. Daily needs are probably often preventing us from clearly understanding past difficulties and future challenges. We must quickly achieve the economic levels which Argentina would have achieved if the well-known critical situation had not interfered. To this end, the rate of growth and investment must be substantially larger than that reached so far.

This is the challenge presented to us by our own past, a challenge which is also presented by the world which has not stopped meanwhile. In the face of the world's advance we must not lag behind.

Our economy has achieved greater participation in world trade, and a good example is the exceptional increase in exports. This and the level of international reserves have elicited a renewed and growing confidence in the country. We have thus gone from a practical suspension of payments to a reserve of over $5 billion, the largest in our history.

The concern for economic issues was also centered in a reorganization of other areas where existing imbalances were large. As a specific example, the difficult task of reducing the state deficit was achieved, taking special care not to affect the level of public investment, an important source of future growth. Just as we were reluctant to continue with uncontrolled expenditures, we were interested--and we still are--in the state's attention to its fundamental duties regarding energy, communications, transport and large industries. This is evidenced by the plans underway. These investments are a must to accelerate the development of the economy.

The group of hydroelectric projects underway--some on the way to completion such as Futaleufu and Salto Grande--will require an investment effort between now and 1985 on the order of $24 billion, equal to practically four times our exports. Between 1977 and 1985, for instance, 14 hydroelectric plants will be brought into the production of energy. With these projects and the nuclear plants and other installations, the power-generating capacity will be doubled, and a total of 14 million kw will be reached.

With the firm objective of achieving oil self-sufficiency in the shortest possible time, we will continue with our search for hydrocarbons, on both land and on the continental shelf. The plans include 8,000 new wells by 1985, which will permit an appropriate amount of reserves and an important increase in production.

As for communications, which is at the core of the economic apparatus, and regarding its modernization, the expansion of the telephone network and other systems, an investment of $1.6 billion will be required. The work plan covering the period until 1981 provides for the installation of 860,000 new telephone lines.

Moreover, during these last 2 years, 1,200 km of new roads have been built. In 1978 alone there is an investment plan of almost $600 million. This plan includes the construction of 1,500 km of paved roads.

In the railroad sector, we have not limited ourselves to achieving a considerable reduction of its deficit, but in addition we have been greatly concerned with its modernization. This will allow an improvement of its services, and to achieve this, we will double its investments during 1978, raising these investments to $250 million.

Furthermore, during the last 2 years our merchant fleet has been substantially renovated with the incorporation of 23 new units, which represent an overall transportation capacity of 1 million tons.

Argentina is undertaking today the greatest technical and financial effort in its history in the investigation of Argentine sea and fishing exploitation, in the hope that by 1980 Argentina will quadruple its fishing exports.

Regarding airports, we have thoroughly renovated their physical plants and operational equipment. We have also achieved a considerable increase in Argentine commercial flights with the aim of exercising the right of making flights to and from the country.

This policy of basic investments has been extended bo the agrarian sector. To protect harvests and their prices, silos will be built in the next 3 years at a cost of $300 million. This will increase the grain storage capacity by 200.4 million tons.

All of this effort which has been carried out was accompanied by an equal effort made by the private sector, as has been confirmed by a strong increase in its investment during 1977. But there are still important areas of economic activity which require an urgent expansion of productive capacity in order to increase our growth, an ever-increasing growth which demands imagination and capacity from Argentine businessmen. Investments reflect the will to grow, and this presupposes savings. The policy which has been enforced has protected the savings depositor, whatever his status, and the Argentine citizen has stopped having confidence in foreign currency as a refuge from his doubts.

As we said before while we still experienced economic difficulties this year, these have been centered mainly in the are of incomes. We cannot, nor do we wish to, leave this issue aside because by doing so we would not be giving you an overall picture of our concern. In this regard, I wish to note that the government will enforce a sound salary policy which will not cause a hike in inflation but which will enable an improvement of the situation among the needy sectors and will improve the level of basic salaries. The investments plan underway will allow this effort to achieve a greater and more solid future well-being.

We Argentines must be convinced that only through this effort will the nation be able to successfully face the future. Of course, this future is also forcing us to look beyond our borders, since foreign policy is a vital factor in strengthening the security and development of the nation. That is why special emphasis was placed during these 2 years on reestablishing and strengthening the Argentine presence in the world, particularly at the hemispheric level. The action carried out in various areas, personal contacts and direct negotiations have provided Argentina with a new international position.

The defense of national interests firmly urged us along the path of direct negotiations with the other nations interested in the hydroelectric utilization of the Upper Parana River. It was our aim to find a formula which, harmonizing the positions of the three interested parties, could allow a quick implementation of the gigantic projects and a full utilization of the pertinent river resources.

Another concern of our government was to speed up the course of negotiations with the United Kingdom regarding recognition of our sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands.

The controversy with our sister republic of Chile, however, was the issue which, because of its characteristics, has caused deep concern throughout the nation. Since the very beginning, the policy implemented in defense of our sovereignty was the true expression of the national will. The government believed that the solution of differences between Argentina and Chile had to be channeled through a direct negotiation. We have gone down an honest road in beginning a stage in our search for an agreement and mutual understanding. We hope that the result will meet with the aspirations of our peoples to live in peace in order to build a future of greatness.

We said at the beginning that the country is on its feet and that it is now necessary to make it walk. The great issue which we Argentines are facing is the formulation of a policy, a policy of national unity.

During these 2 years the armed forces took the responsibility of exclusively exercising power. But since the very beginning they had the purpose--and they so stated on various occasions--of calling the nation to outline and implement this new policy. The general guidelines of this policy are not--nor could they be--fruit of the imagination, of individual beliefs or ideology of a particular man or men or of a particular sector or tendency. These essential principles are dictated by reality itself and by the permanent values which make a people what they are and which open up an exciting and promising future. These circumstances undoubtedly determine the need that this policy must be in response to a main goal, that of building a great and modern nation.

To build a modern Argentina in the political field means the establishment of a pluralistic democracy, one which will encompass the presence and the aspirations of the people and the armed forces. We uphold the pluralism which was born with the fatherland, which was hallowed in the constitution and which identifies us with the Western world; a pluralism which means diversity but a diversity which always maintains an agreement with our fundamental values.

In the same manner and with equal emphasis, we reject that totalitarian alternative which denies the right to dissent, the right to genuine disagreement which constitutes the essence of a free socity.

For this purpose then, it will be necessary to strengthen the institutions by reorganizing government entities and their powers so that we may be able to overcome the crisis which affected them, and by doing so we will be able to achieve full political stability. This reorganization will, at the appropriate time, also affect our political parties which are the indispensable tools of representative democracy. The objective of this task will be the formation of few but strong and programmatic currents of opinion, the renewal of leadership and the modification of party practices.

The traditional idea of a federal nation will have renewed strength in the economic development of the provinces. It will be necessary, therefore, to erase the presently tacit but unacceptable border in the interior of the country which divides prosperous areas from poor and backward areas. If federalism is conceived in this manner, it will enable the consolidation of a decentralized power structure.

But we cannot forget that politics was, in the beginning, an activity which was born in the city itself. Therefore, the strengthening of the oldest of our institutions, the municipality, is a fundamental aspect of the modernization of the nation and, consequently, it is a priority objective in the national reorganization process. This strengthening must be achieved through an increasing participation of the community in the discussion and solution of its own problems. This means the transference to the municipalities of many important functions which are their concern and which have been absorbed by the provincial or national government.

To build a modern Argentina in the economic field also means to be a great agricultural power and a highly industrialized nation. We will promote a new style of development to achieve a dynamic and sustained economic growth, one which will ensure an equal distribution of its benefits. On this basis we will be able to assure the well-being of all Argentine sectors. To achieve this it is imperative to count on a stable economy, to promote savings and channel them with efficiency toward productive investments and to promote the expansion of our economic presence beyond our borders.

This new style means a balanced development of our various productive sectors which will enable us to overcome the existing incompatibilities between the agricultural and industrial sectors. It presupposes, furthermore, to promote the modernization and industrialization of agriculture enterprise, the expansion of agricultural borders and the promotion of our national industries which must be capable of answering our domestic needs and be able to project themselves into international markets.

A high priority will be assigned to the promotion of scientific and technical know-how in the country so that we can achieve our own technological development. This national effort will have to be complemented by both foreign capital and technology, whose incorporation will occur on a selective basis, making sure that this will in no way affect the national decisionmaking process.

Pursuant to this view of a modernized economy, the government will continue to apply the principle of covering those areas which are not covered or which are not properly covered by the private sector, although making sure that the common interest prevails over any biased attempt at securing for any one sector the benefits which must be shared by the entire society.

The building of a modern Argentina in the area of social justice means establishing an order in which equity, solidarity and equal opportunities should prevail.

Political participation, which makes democracy possible, must run parallel to social participation channeled through organizations representing the various sectors. A modern society, which demands full social equilibrium, cannot be conceived without union, workers and business organizations. As long as these organizations for sectorial representation, no matter their type, do not go beyond their proper scope, they can become important elements for maintaining political and social stability. These organizations--with the neutral participation of the state--will have to reconcile their interests through direct negotiations.

A modern state also considers social action one of its primary duties. The people are entitled to security. The state will offer permanent assistance, and not contingent distribution of benefits, to the people. The objective is to protect individuals against contingencies, although without excusing them from their share of effort. In sum, the prevailing characteristic in the social sector will be to encourage initiatives and to share responsibilities.

A modern Argentina must consider security and development as its major objectives in the area of its international policy. We are aware, however, that to achieve these goals we must be able to place Argentina in a proper position within the international political and economic framework. Obviously, no country can isolate itself in this era of superpowers, of regional blocs and of growing, complex interrelations. Therefore, cooperation with our brother countries appears to be an unavoidable mandate. We Argentines believe that coordinating our efforts with the other countries of the region is a unique political challenge confronted by our generation. We must jointly build a power scheme which may increase our decisionmaking capacity, to be strong enough to reject foreign interference and to bear sufficient weight to defend our common interests before the entire world. To achieve these objectives--security and development--we must guide our foreign actions within this global context.

Besides working for Latin American unity, we have to work on behalf of an understanding of all the peoples and the enforcement of an international order based on freedom, peace, democracy and full economic and technological development of the nations, at an equal level.

In all areas of the world our action will be guided by the legitimate ambition--now renewed--of building a great nation.

In order to have the political framework needed to fulfill its mission, any government naturally needs ideas to guide its action and an appropriate planning of the political steps which will guarantee the implementation of those ideas. Here and now, the guideline for this process lies in building a modern country where a stable democracy can be implemented, with the participation of the various sectors and tendencies and with an assured active participation of the armed forces.

It has been made clear since the beginning that the pluralism we wanted was one of the objectives of the process for national reorganization. Therefore, the government has not been--nor will it be--at the service of any sectors or sector, as provided for by the armed forces on 24 March 1976.

Dialog is an essential tool for the political plan; therefore, the most representative members of national life will be called upon and, as stated before, only the subversive and corrupt will be excluded. I want to emphasize that this dialog will not mean just talking. It will mean a common effort toward outlining a definitive political proposal, a specific expression of the civilian-military agreement which must essentially be structured. This task will, therefore, demand a responsible and unselfish attitude; it will also require imagination for the proposal of solutions and firmness in the expression of ideas. We do not hope that dialog will lead to unanimous thinking. We do hope that it will permit approval by a consistent majority of the people.

We are aware that government actions, even under the best conditions, require some adjustments. Therefore, the armed forces have given the process a dynamic action, which was expressed in provisions such as the regulations which determine the length of terms of the president and of the commanders of the armed forces. The application of this principle, which is the essence of the republican concept, ordains that in a few more months a renovation at the highest level of the armed forces will take place and that the military junta will appoint a high-ranking retired officer to assume the presidency of the nation.

This dynamic action is by no means exhausted by a switching of men. It also includes the adjustment of ideas and the policies needed to implement them. This will lead to a time when the changing of men and the implementation of the proposal will open up a new stage in the process, a stage which--I feel I must repeat this--will not be guided by an electoral schedule but by the achievement of objectives.

Under these circumstances, the agreement between civilians and military, in accordance with the plan which will guide the government actions of this period, will begin to take form.

In order to implement this agreement in this new period, civilians will be progressively incorporated into the government. These changes will create a revitalization of the process and will be aimed at adjusting actions in order to better achieve the purpose and objectives set on 24 March 1976. The purpose and objectives established by the armed forces are the guides of the process; therefore, this guide is permanent.

This proposal, due to its nature, will undoubtedly make it possible to promote a wide range of opinion which will be above all sectors and tendencies.

All of these events will create a long period of transition for the establishment of a modern, pluralist and stable democracy, a democracy which we will not achieve overnight, but which will be the result of effort, work and study that will require time and which will necessarily impose changes.

Gentlemen, we Argentines have been urged more than once to agree on merely superficial matters, the search for public opinion on basic issues having been disgarded. We have also been, more than once, politicized by a call for national unity, under which personal and sectorial interests were concealed.

The armed forces are the ones which are now making a call to the nation. They are doing it not because they pretend to get rid of what our country was in the last few years but because they consider themeslves an authentic expression of national unity.

The call they are making is based on national unity aimed at creating a great and modern nation. Only on the basis of this basic objective will there be a real possibility of fulfilling the precept of a democratic system, coexisting in diversity but respecting unity.

We are all responsible for the success of this process. We are first responsible before God, to Whom with our daily efforts we must humbly be thankful for the benefits we receive from Him. We are also responsible to our fellow man, because man is the participant and the beneficiary of this process, the Argentine man to whom we make a call to overcome past antagonisms and to make a common effort to build a great and modern nation. We are also responsible to ourselves, with the obligation to make of our own lives a real example of dedication to serve, always ready to serve even in heroic death or in the silence of exemplary behavior. This is what we believe and we accept it as a challenge. It is a commitment to our youth, real and legitimate heirs of this process. This is the answer they expect from us. This is how we will open the possibility of a clear horizon with an optimistic vision of the future.

Gentlemen, the country is now on its feet. Let us make it walk. This is the slogan of the hour. The way to achieve it is national unity. The objective is to build a great and modern nation. I ask the Lord to enlighten us so that we can achieve this goal.

NOTABLES DEMAND IMPRISONED PROFESSOR'S RELEASE

FY291722Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1602 GMT 29 Mar 78 FY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Mar--Several Argentine personalities have asked Argentine President Gen Jorge Videla to release Prof Alfredo Bravo, who has been detained since 8 September without being charged. Bravo, secretary general of the teachers union and vice president of the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, was kidnaped "by unknown persons and declared as disappeared by the government which 10 days later acknowledged that he was really detained "at the disposal of the executive branch."

Former President Arturo Illia, two bishops and high-ranking political and labor leaders are demanding that Bravo be released, insisting on the fact that officially no charges have been formulated. In private conversations, high-ranking and trustworthy military personnel admitted that they consider him to be "ideologically dangerous." The independent English daily the Buenos Aires HERALD, in an editorial published this morning, links the Bravo case with that of the former editor of the newspaper LA OPINION, Jacobo Timerman, who is also "at the disposal of the executive branch," and who was detained without any charges being brought against him.

PRESIDENT BANZER GRANTS INTERVIEW TO CLARIN

PY300033Y Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 29 Mar 78 pp 8, 9 PY

[Text of undated interview granted by Bolivian President Hugo Banzer Suarez at Quemado Palace in La Paz]

[Text] [Question] Mr President, can you clarify the meaning of your statement regarding Bolivia's economic and military potential? Does Bolivia discard the possibility of some neighboring country's taking preventive measures in the face of the implementation of this policy?

[Answer] Bolivia is traditionally a pacific country, which has never attacked its neighbors. What I had in mind when I mentioned the need to develop the country was the need to devote our best effort toward economic and social developments. Bolivia is a privileged country considering that it has large arable lands. It is self-sufficient in energy, it exports hydrocarbons and has most of the necessary raw materials for industrial development. In recent years we have positively progressed in the utilization of these three resources. Thus, the country has achieved rapid growth. Regarding military development, we will continue our policy of modernization of the armed forces, which means to equip them although with defensive objectives and within the country's actual economic capabilities, without sacrificing its development.

[Question] How can Bolivia achieve the yearned-for return to the sea now that relations with Chile are severed?

[Answer] The suspension of diplomatic relations with Chile does not mean that Bolivia has given up finding a mutually satisfactory solution for all the parties interested in Bolivia's landlocked situation. The government that is elected in July this year will have the responsibility of renewing the pertinent negotiations on the basis of the experience gained in the negotiating process which we have ended.

[Question] Mr President, what do you think was the reason for the Chilean press and even some unofficial Santiago spokesmen to blame the decision to break relations on internal Bolivian political issues?

[Answer] Each time negotiations between the Bolivian and Chilean governments have reached a critical point--something which has never happened as a result of Bolivian Government policy--some sector of the Chilean press and some unofficial spokesmen have tried to blame the crisis on issues related to Bolivia's internal politics. As you can see we have no political problems here. There are no prisoners, exiles or people wanted for political reasons. We have called for free and democratic elections and we are willing to accept the results. There is complete freedom of the press in the country, and all citizens or groups enjoy a full right to express their thinking without limitations. So, I do not see any problem of internal politics which could have determined the decision to suspend our diplomatic relations with Chile or the benefits that my government could have derived from this attitude.

[Question] Bolivia faces a pending issue in the OAS over the diversion of the Lauca River which has presently forces Bolivia to keep aloof from the organization. Does Bolivia believe that the OAS will do something concrete in support of its maritime cause?

[Answer] The OAS is an international forum which lacks any means for imposing any of its decisions through coercion. Bolivia has submitted a claim to the OAS for the unilateral and arbitrary diversion of the Lauca River. Moreover, it has also submitted its claim to the OAS for the delay in negotiations to achieve a free and sovereign outlet on the Pacific Ocean. This is part of peaceful diplomatic negotiations which are carried out at the world level to create an international awareness for Bolivia's just claims.

[Question] Has Bolivia terminated its attendance at the military meetings which it has held with Peru and Chile?

[Answer] Bolivia will not attend these meetings for the simple reason that at this time it does not have any proposals to make.

[Question] Mr President, why was the Bolivian Government, in principle, willing to exchange territory to achieve a corridor to the Pacific Ocean when agreements signed in 1950 between the countries stated that there would not be territorial compensations?

[Answer] Bolivia accepted the counterproposal made by Chile in 1973 as a broad basis for negotiations but under no circumstances was it willing, nor did it accept, this territorial exchange. As you know, throughout the years of these negotiations the people and institutions had unrestricted freedom to issue their ideas on this issue through the mass media. In answer to the people's request, I categorically rejected the Chilean demand for an exchange of territory in 1976.

[Question] It would be interesting, for the sake of history, to record what you personally expected from your relationship with Chilean President Augusto Pinochet to justify a private correspondence.

[Answer] Private correspondence between presidents is a genuine diplomatic activity. I have maintained private correspondence not only with the Chilean president but with the presidents of almost all the Latin American nations. The historical benefit I hoped to achieve through this private correspondence with the Chilean president was to persuade him about the genuine Bolivian claims and insist on my position.

[Question] Will the Bolivian president and his cabinet attend the arrival in Rosario of the Bolivian ship Libertador Simon Bolivar?

[Answer] I would be quite pleased to be in Rosario for the arrival of the Libertador Simon Bolivar and also to attend a ceremony which is symbolic of the generosity of the Argentine and Venezuelan Governments--the former for having granted Bolivia a free port and the latter for having donated a large transportation ship. These attitudes reflect the American spirit of solidarity which unfortunately has not been found in other countries.

[Question] Will Bolivia purchase arms from Brazil, as some rumors have it?

[Answer] Bolivia will purchase arms abroad as part of its normal requirements to modernize and renew its military equipment, but this does not mean that it will undertake an arms race. I repeat that Bolivia is a peaceful country and that training and equipping of its armed forces is strictly for defensive reasons, to keep internal peace and to protect national security.

REGULAR COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS TO CHILE TO CONTINUE

PY292014Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1856 GMT 29 Mar 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 29 Mar--Lloyd Bolivian Airline [LAB] will continue its present La Paz-Santiago flights despite the severing of diplomatic relations between Bolivia and Chile, it was reported here today. A LAB spokesman indicated that the Bolivian airline will continue its scheduled flights both to Santiago and Arica, since "commercial relations have not changed."

INTERIOR MINISTER DENIES WITHDRAWAL OF PEREDA AS CANDIDATE

PY291535Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Nothing is known in government circles about an alleged withdrawal by Gen Juan Pereda Asbun from the presidential race. This statement was made by Interior Minister Guillermo Jimenez Gallo. The interior minister made his statement in response to numerous rumors circulating yesterday after the president held a 6-hour meeting with the high military command in the government palace. When answering questions from newsmen who waited at the palace gate until 2300 last night, General Jimenez said that it was probably just another rumor and that the other insistent rumors about General Pereda's withdrawal from his candidacy already have been categorically refuted.

General Jimenez Gallo made more specific statements regarding the political manifestos demanding the resignation of candidate Juan Pereda Asbun, saying that they were manipulated expressions which appeared to have the enthusiasm of the electoral process, but that basically they were not supported by any valid arguments. He also referred to the statement made by Col Samuel Gallardo [labor minister during Barrientos administration], who is in Argentina, asking that General Pereda Asbun withdraw from his candidacy. He stated that Gallardo was not representative of any opinion.

When the interior minister left the palace he reported that the timetable for the July elections is being met. He made the remark that his ministry had obtained this report from officials of the National Electoral Court who have made an appraisal of the process.

GOVERNMENT DECLINES UN REQUEST FOR TROOPS TO MIDEAST

PY291430Y La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Mar 78 PY

[Text] The armed forces government has declined to send the troops requested by the UN Security Council to the Middle East. This report was given by army commander Gen Alfonso Villalpando after the military meeting held in the government palace last night. He said that a report on military activities was submitted to Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces. He called the present political situation of that country calm and indicated that there is no news which might disturb the normal activities of the nation.

He again remarked that Gen Rene Bernal Escalante has been granted indefinite leave from the armed forces to participate in the electoral process in July.

GEISEL SPEECH WELCOMES PRESIDENT CARTER

PY301326Y Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 29 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt of President Geisel's welcoming speech to President Carter in Brasilia on 29 March--recorded]

[Text] Your Excellency the President of the United States of America: On behalf of the Brazilian Government and people, I wish to present to Your Excellency, your wife and members of your delegation my best greetings of welcome and my best hope for a pleasant stay in Brazil. Your Excellency's presence in our country will mark the high point in the traditional relations of friendship between the United States and Brazil.

O ESTADO HOPES CARTER'S TRIP ENLIGHTENS HIM

PY292012Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Mar 78 p 3 PY

[From "Notes and Information" page: "Jimmy Carter's Visit"]

[Excerpts] Today President Carter begins his trip to Venezuela and Brazil, from which he will go to Nigeria. The agenda set before his departure clearly shows that he is aware of the difficulties he will find in his talks with the heads of government in Caracas, Brasilia and Lagos, especially with President Ernesto Geisel. From the merely formal viewpoint, it is very significant that while it has been announced that he will speak in Caracas and Lagos, Carter has no important speeches scheduled in Brasilia. If to this in itself revealing circumstance we add the fact that by Carter's request there will be no traditional banquet in Brasilia, during which it is customary to make speeches stating each party's position, it becomes obvious that the most difficult negotiations are expected in Brazil. Thus, everything leads us to believe that unless personal traits crop up, these negotiations will be carried out in an atmosphere of responsibility and mutual respect.

In this regard we must agree--and this we had already stated in our commentary when Carter's trip was confirmed--that the political decisions regarding the two main issues which constitute the leitmotiv of U.S. foreign policy (human rights and nuclear nonproliferation) will hardly experience any change during the talks between Geisel and the head of the White House.

It is possible that Carter's trip, in the wake of exploratory missions by high-ranking State Department officials and Mrs Rosalynn Carter, will allow him to reach a better understanding of Latin America's reality, a reality he appears to have understood even less than predecessors who had to face truly serious problems with this part of the Western Hemisphere so little understood in Washington's decisionmaking centers. However, in this regard it is necessary to point out that the information he will gather undoubtedly will be conflicting. In Caracas he will talk with Carlos Andres Perez, who will not miss the opportunity to emphasize the significance of his country within the Latin American framework (an importance based mainly on oil and on the fact that his country, despite the social gaps and the political problems it is facing, is one of the few true democracies of the continent). As to Brazil, here Carter will find a chief of state who is ardently devoted to Brazil's economic and strategic importance, and prepared to give up nothing which he considers to be the sovereign rights of the state, while at the same time being ready to demand more and better attention from the United States for our foreign trade problems, transference of technology and balance of payments.

In other words, Carter will receive different pictures of Latin America, and it will be on the basis of these pictures--in addition to whatever studies his practically inexperienced advisers can provide him with--that he will decide whether to follow the unhappy overall policy which the State Department has been carrying out so far, or whether to develop special relations with countries which--for various and sundry motives--have certain, if varying, weight in Latin American affairs, and to have specific projects for the area.

Even during the peak of the campaign which certain official circles waged against the United States, President Geisel repeatedly reasserted the significance of a good relationship between the two leading countries of the hemisphere. We all hope that he will remain faithful to this objective during the talks and that Carter will realize that he is dealing with a country which is sufficiently mature to handle its international responsibilities and wishes to be treated as a responsible partner even though it may occasionally have interests which disagree with those of the United States.

CORRESPONDENT CRITICIZES WHITE HOUSE PRESS RELATIONS

PY291925Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Mar 78 p 6 PY

[By O ESTADO special correspondent Ruy P. Barbosa]

[Excerpt] Washington--President Jimmy Carter's visit to Latin America and Africa has been surrounded in Washington by a thick official secrecy which is hard to understand.

In contrast to the relatively easy access to information at the time the trip was originally planned and then canceled, circles in the State Department and in the White House are now frowning upon reporters. Journalists' insistence on information from the White House was first received with promises of a briefing which was inexplicably postponed and later, with the demand of the press secretary to the presidential adviser for national security that the transcript of Brzezinski's remarks be submitted for review as a condition to grant an exclusive interview.

In plain terms, an interview with the inaccessible Brzezinski would be granted only if the journalist would let the White House censor the material to be published. O ESTADO turned down the interview under those conditions

If such a demand seems surprising in the United States, the champion of the freedom of expression, coming from the White House--whose current tenant includes the exercise of this freedom within his human rights policy--it causes only a small and fleeting shock to someone who, as a professional, has become used to seeing the daily series of absurd attitudes adopted by a good number of inexperienced amateurs staffing the central administration of the U.S. presidency. These attitudes are evidence of the respect reserved for foreign press representatives by the xenophobic assistants of President Carter.

In fact the "open presidency" inaugurated by Jimmy Carter is the religion of a single man; the U.S. President--and even so with some restrictions. Since his inauguration, the U.S. President has accepted questions from foreign journalists during press conferences only twice. The press interview granted fortnightly by the U.S. President represent in fact a voluntary exposure to U.S. public opinion only and President Carter seems sincere in his desire to establish communications with representatives of a broad and varied spectrum of interests.

From the second echelon down, however, information which the press legitimately expects to receive is filtered and distributed with a medicine dropper to journalists willing to play the game by the new rules or those those who represent U.S. publications for which the current White House staffers hope to work when their days as government officials are over.

CHANCES FOR BETTER TRADE DEAL WITH U.S. VIEWED

PY2920417 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Mar 78 p 3 PY

[From "Notes and Information" page: "An Assurance the White House Cannot Give"]

[Excerpts] President Carter's visit will afford a good opportunity to discuss, at the highest administrative level, the problem of readjusting international trade, undoubtedly one of the most relevant subjects in 1978. The atmosphere for an understanding between the two presidents was cleared up a few days ago when U.S. officials revealed their willingness to withhold the levying of new duties on Brazilian-made products until January 1979. According to information obtained last week, the U.S. Government is also willing to accept the inclusion of the "damage clause" proposed by Brazilian negotiators into the code of incentives to be prepared by GATT.

That willingness, however, should not be overestimated as to its practical importance. In the first place, the promise of not charging any new duties until January 1979 is all that the United States can offer us in this area because of the limitations imposed by the laws of the country. This moratorium on duties implies that Brazil should reciprocate by giving up some [export] incentives (mainly tax refunds), or--and this would be more complicated--by supporting a new situation which may be created with the adoption of new international trade regulations backed by the United States, for instance. In addition, it should be taken into account that, if the U.S. President should vote in favor of a new code of incentives within GATT, the following will become necessary: First, the U.S. Congress must ratify the new international code; and second, the internal laws must be adapted to the obligations assumed in foreign negotiations.

However, an important step forward will be taken if President Carter should be persuaded by Brazil's reasons and decide thereupon to advocate in his country the adoption of a new international trade system more favorable for developing economies. This is not a simple undertaking, especially as the United States registers a growing foreign trade deficit and a high rate of unemployment.

Of course, the present difficulties of the United States cannot even remotely be ascribed to its trade with Brazil even supposing such a thing sounds grotesque when one thinks of the relatively greater importance of other U.S. trade partners. The U.S. President and his aides know that Brazil is not the culprit, but labor unions, small and medium-sized businessmen, as well as the congressmen who represent them are less understanding of subtleties. Weighing everything properly, it seems correct to say that the great obstacles to some reforms regarding international trade in 1978, which are desirable for the developing economies, will not be raised necessarily by the United States, but by Europe and the Far East.

The picture of difficulties in international trade cannot be decisively changed by the Brazilians or even by the Americans alone. Therefore, no matter the importance of any progress made in negotiations with Carter and his aides, Brazilian officials must realistically be prepared for the eventuality of being forced, in a few months, to adopt a new scheme of export incentives less vulnerable to retaliations. No strategy disregarding that eventuality can be considered safe.

JORNAL CALLS FOR TRADE ACT MODIFICATIONS

PY292158Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 28 Mar 78 p 10 PY

[Editorial: "A Partner's Profile"]

[Text] "The crux of the problem is the capacity of the United States to deal with an emerging country like Brazil, which is increasingly participating in international markets, plus the amazingly limited capacity of the U.S. Government to react to that fact."

The above evaluation by economist Albert Fishlow at a roundtable which was covered by JORNAL DO BRASIL last Sunday regarding the present degree of union or separation lying behind the problems in the relations between the United States and Brazil, is quite valid.

Reason is on Fishlow's side when he points out that the trade problems originate from the economic expansion of Brazil and its repercussion in the international markets, and reason is also on his side when he deplores that the 1975 trade act has rendered the U.S. executive branch powerless to pay due attention to the aspirations of exporters of Brazil's category in the most acute protectionism-inhibited phase in world trade since 1973.

Both U.S. negotiators and institutions must begin to adapt themselves to living harmoniously with a partner like Brazil. Refusing to recognize new realities is like pretending to ignore the dynamism of the Brazilian economy. The trade act is an obstacle in the present circumstances, because it is inflexible and because it is equipped with automatic mechanisms which can go off without the executive branch being able to do anything about it. The trade act is a bigger obstacle in the case of Brazil, which is a mere newcomer as an exporter to foreign markets and which needs to stimulate exports with incentives, such as special exchange rates and tariffs to assist the industrialists. But all these forms of incentives constitute commercial practices objected to in the trade act, whose provisions are equally applied to well established and more sophisticated exporters, such as Japan in the case of steel.

On the eve of President Carter's arrival in Brazil, the United States would act quite properly by making clear its intentions regarding the next GATT meeting. It would be quite proper that the U.S. negotiators expressed their readiness to accept the proposal insistently presented by Brazil that the GATT should take the initiative in raising obstacles to exports from countries like Brazil any time there is evidence that the industry of the importing country is being badly hurt. This is known as the damage clause which, if approved by GATT and accepted by the United States, will act as a counterweight to the drastic provisions of the trade act.

The Brazilian exporter does not want to have preferential treatment in the sense of receiving paternalistic protection. The Brazilian exporter must be punished or rewarded according to his efficiency and his competitive capacity, provided the acquired rights of competitors already operating in the markets the Brazilian exporter wants to penetrate are respected. It is important, however, that fair rules specifically describing the damages be established, preferably by a multilateral organization such as GATT. The trade act should not become an instrument to protect forever inefficiencies traceable to the U.S. industrial establishment itself.

Neither should the trade act be turned into an additional obstacle to good relations between Brazil and the United States.

FIGUEIREDO TO BE PROMOTED TO FOUR-STAR GENERAL

PY291520Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 29 Mar 78 PY

[Text] By unanimous vote, the army high command has placed the name of Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo first on the list of candidates for promotion to the rank of four-star general. Five others included on the list of those selected for promotion next Friday, 31 March, are: Generals Antonio Carlos de Andrada Serpa, Hugo de Andrada Abreu, Paulo Fihlo de Carvalho, Walter Pires de Carvalho and Hernan Ayrose da Silva. Army Minister Fernando Belfort Bethlem took the list yesterday to President Geisel at the Planalto Palace. As he will be busy with President Carter's visit the next 2 days, General Geisel may have already signed the promotion resolution.

AMNESTY GROUP CLAIMS 199 PERSONS DEAD, MISSING

PY292111Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1945 GMT 29 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 29 Mar--The Brazilian Committee for Amnesty released here today a list of 199 persons who are apparently dead or who disappeared as a result of the repressive action of security organizations, according to the committee.

PHILOSOPHER ORDERED TO LEAVE, ALLOWED TO STAY

PY291735Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1442 GMT 29 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 29 Mar--French philosopher Andre Glucksmann last night received an order from Brazilian authorities to leave the country immediately, but he was unable to comply because the last plane for Paris had already departed. On his return to the hotel, he received apologies from the same Brazilian authorities, who asked him "to forget the incident." Glucksmann is a member of the anti-Marxist "New Philosophers" group in France.

STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS MARK NATIONAL PROTEST DAY

PY301403Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 29 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Although there was extensive deployment of police forces--ostensive in some places but discreet in others--student demonstrations on National Protest Day were restricted to university campuses, as planned, and took place without any incidents with one single exception. In Belo Horizonte the public ceremony planned by the law school of the Federal University of Minas Gerais, turned into a march through the main streets of the city and was violently disbanded by military police using police dogs, tear gas and truncheons. At least 30 persons were arrested and up to midnight a group of students remained in hiding at the School of Economics of the Federal University of Minas Gerais, surrounded by military police and agents of the Department of Political and Social Order (DOPS). In Sao Paulo the demonstrations on the 10th anniversary of the death of student Edson Luis de Lima Souto and the fifth anniversary of the death of Alexandre Vanucchi Leme were merely observed by police.

The ceremonies began at 1000 with the reading of manifestos at the law school located on Largo de Sao Francisco Street and lasted through the day with discussions about amnesty at various other schools, ending at night with a rally at the medical school of Sao Paulo University.

ARMY COMMANDERS ISSUE STATEMENT SUPPORTING PINOCHET

PY291850Y Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Mar 78 PY

[Press statement issued by office of deputy commander in chief of the army]

[Text] During its first meeting of the year, the military board comprising the entire generals corps, by unanimous decision of itsmembers, has decided to reiterate to the president and commander in chief of the army its full support for the decisions he has made and will make during his stay in office. In support of its commander in chief, the board will not allow the creation of problems or obstacles to the plan for our nation's institutionalization.

TOWNLEY DENIES ANY LINK TO LETELIER MURDER

PY291503Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1400 GMT 29 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 29 Mar--U.S. citizen Michael Townley, the key witness in the "Letelier case," denied that he had any link to the murder of Popular Unity's former foreign minister and indicated that he was afraid that he might be killed.

Answering a 20-item questionnaire submitted to him by the morning newspaper LA TERCERA DE LA HORA and which was published here today, Townley admitted that the photograph attached to the request made by U.S. courts, which want to question him about the crime committed in Washington 2 years ago, is his. The court request also mentions Chilean Army Capt Armando Fernandez Larios who yesterday appeared before a military attorney who is investigating irregularities in the issuance of passports presumably used by the two men to travel to the United States in August 1976. One month later, Orlando Letelier and an American woman died when a bomb exploded in their car.

Townley said: "Apparently the photograph seems to be mine, although I do not remember when it was taken. You must remember that every time I have renewed by U.S. passport a copy of my photograph remains with the embassy and the U.S. State Department."

Referring to the fear that he might be killed, he indicated that "there are interests within international Marxism which would be very well served by my death."

He then asserted that U.S. justice and its two long arms--the FBI and CIA--are being skillfully exploited by communism as "useful fools."

Regarding the question of his relations with, "if any", the disbanded National Intelligence Directorate, Townley indicated that he could give no information regarding this matter. He also refused to indicate whether or not he knew Captain Fernandez Larios and said that this is a matter pertaining to the investigation.

In response to an explicit question as to whether or not he denied any type of participation, direct or indirect, in the Letelier case, Townley answered: "Yes, I deny it." Townley only answered 12 of the questionnaire's 20 questions.

Townley Testifies 11 Hours

PY301325Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 30 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago--U.S. citizen Michael Townley testified before the ad hoc judge at the Defense Ministry for about 11 hours yesterday. After being officially summoned to make a statement, Townley appeared before the judge.

GOVERNMENT TO SEEK CIPEC PRESSURE ON U.S. COPPER IMPORTS

PY290343Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0240 GMT 29 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 28 Mar--Chile will invite Peru, Zambia, Zaire and other members of the Intergovernmental Council of Copper Exporting Countries [CIPEC] to launch a campaign to prevent the United States from decreasing its copper imports.

Gaston Frez, vice president of the Chilean Copper Corporation [CODELCO], stated that this measure will be adopted despite the fact that the Chilean Government believes that the request against this decrease will not be answered.

During a press conference Frez noted that "we believe that these proposals will not be fulfilled because of the trade restrictions which the establishment of import quotas or the increase of tariffs on primary or manufactured copper would have on U.S. trade."

Frez was one of several high-ranking CODELCO executives who attended a press conference during which details were given about production profits and investment programs of the five large state-owned copper mines. Because of present low copper prices and high production costs in U.S. mines, which have caused the closing of some deposits, U.S. copper producers have requested the U.S. Government to decrease the U.S. annual copper import quota.

According to CODELCO, Chile exports to the United States between 80,000 and 120,000 metric tons of copper per year. Most of this sale is of fine copper. The annual Chilean copper production is about 1 million metric tons.

Frez stated that Chile will explain its points of view when U.S. producers submit their request during a meeting to be held in Tucson, Arizona, on 23 May. This matter will be studied by a U.S. special commission which will hold meetings in that city.

In another part of his report Frez indicated that the large state-owned mines produced 954.091 metric tons of fine copper in 1976, valued at $1,177,900. Last year, production reached 892,071 metric tons, worth $1,105,000. He said that sales of copper byproducts increased to $155 million in 1977. The year before sales were $85.8 million. Frez emphasized that there is reason to believe that copper prices will improve this year. He said that until now the average price was 55 cents per pound.

CODELCO's executive president, Orlando Urbina, reported that investments worth $891.8 million will be made between 1978 and 1982, in order to maintain the productive capacity of the large mines. The plan will begin in 1978 with an investment of $150 million. This figure surpasses by more than 50 percent the 1976 investment which was $99.6 million.

EL MERCURIO SEES BREAK IN TIES AS PLOY BY BANZER

PY292200Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1523 GMT 29 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 29 Mar--EL MERCURIO stated today that the recent break in diplomatic relations between Chile and Bolivia could have been a maneuver made by that country's government for electoral purposes. The dean of the Chilean press said in an editorial that "it now seems obvious that one of the issues brandished by opposition groups against the government of President Hugo Banzer and presidential candidate General Pereda, who is supported by the president, is the so-called failure in the negotiations with Chile to obtain a sea outlet through Chilean territory." The paper said that this weakened the popularity of President Banzer.

EL MERCURIO added: "Therefore, it is not doubtful that he decided to break with Chile so that all the fault would fall on our country, so that this important event would distract the attention of the Bolivian people and result in a resurgence of patriotic fervor uniting the masses around him." The paper added that this is indicated by the Bolivian note dated 17 March announcing the break in diplomatic ties.

The paper stated that the talks had been momentarily paralyzed by the answer from the Peruvian Government to the consultation sent by Chile in accordance with the 1929 treaty.

The Peruvian proposal included a complicated plan of shared sovereignty in the area, thus implying substantial changes in the present situation. "Despite the Peruvian proposal, the negotiations between Chile and Bolivia were not considered failures, but rather they were slowly progressing in related matters, facilitating progress in the principal issue," the paper said.

EL MERCURIO then enumerated a series of diplomatic steps, including the meeting of the heads of state from the three nations held in Washington during the signing of the Panama Canal treaty. The newspaper also cited personal letters from Chilean President Augusto Pinochet to his Bolivian colleague that stated: "If this is not called continuing negotiations, then we don't know what to call it."

The editorial concluded: "It is regrettable that the negotiations to solve the Bolivian landlocked situation have been taken out of the serene environment of the foreign ministries to be thrust into the passionate arena of public struggle. By doing this, Bolivia is senselessly aggravating the country from which it hopes to obtain concessions."

FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL TO MEET WITH ENVOYS IN TOKYO

PY291428Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 29 Mar--Chilean Foreign Minister Vice Adm Patricio Carvajal left for Tokyo last night to preside over the meeting of Chilean ambassadors in Asia. The objective of the meeting is to analyze Chilean relations with countries in the area and to present new instructions concerning Chilean foreign policy. Eduardo Ciszernas, director of international relations, and Manuel C. Sanuea, economic director--both of the Chilean Foreign Ministry--are accompanying Patricio Carvajal.

LEFTWING FAILS IN BID TO UNITE FOR ELECTIONS

PA300248Y Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 26 Mar 78 p 5-B PA

[Article by Luis E. Almario]

[Text] Cucuta, Colombia, 25 Mar --Any possibility that the opposition groups will join forces and run a single candidate for the presidency of the republic was destroyed when talks among high-ranking leftwing leaders failed, it has been reported here.

The disclosure was made to EL TIEMPO by Julio Cesar Pernia, candidate for the National Opposition Union (UNO)-National Popular Alliance (ANAPO)-Independent Liberal Movement (MIL), who expressed regrets over the deep schism in the opposition sectors and lashed out against groups such as the Independent Workers Revolutionary Movement (MOIR) and the Socialist Party. He singled out the MOIR and the Socialist Party as being solely responsible for the discord among leftists. Because of their personal ambitions and intransigence, they made every effort to prevent the unification of the revolutionary movements and precluded the possibility of running a single candidate under a broad popular platform in the June elections.

The UNO-ANAPO-MIL candidate also said that all efforts made by the majority sector to which he belongs to seek unity were to no avail even though it is known that if they run separately this will mean imminent defeat for the Colombian leftwing.

Candidate Pernia also noted that despite the "blow" against unity dealt by the movements which claim to be the standard bearers of revolutionary ideas, such as the MOIR and other ultraleftist factions, and despite their antiparty and antirevolutionary positions, his organization--UNO-ANAPO-MIL--will go ahead with his presidential candidacy and its platform of ideological struggle.

Pernia said further on, however, that "despite what has happened in the dialog concerning the unity that has been sought with so much toil, despite the fact that the fruit of the dialog was a deep schism in the opposition forces, the doors toward unity are still open to all militants and even their leaders, who are in a position to reconsider the errors that have been committed in the revolutionary struggle in Colombia."

In conclusion Pernia said that if the democratic paths are closed to the leftist sectors the opposition movements should seek other paths in the struggle for power, but that "it is necessary to combine all forms, to seek all paths, in order to achieve the liberation of the Colombian people."

Thus, the Colombian leftwing will run three candidates in the June elections: Jaime Piedrahita Cardona for the MOIR, Socorro Ramirez for the Socialist Party, and Julio Cesar Pernia for the UNO-ANAPO-MIL.

ULTIMA HORA INTERVIEWS RADICAL LIBERAL SENATOR

PY291858Y Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 Mar 78 p 14 PY

[Excerpts of interview with Enzo A. Doldan, new Radical Liberal Party senator]

[Excerpts] [Question] How do you view the present political process in Paraguay and how does this situation affect the task of congress?

[Answer] The present political process has suffered from a type of political paralysis regarding the strengthening of democratic principles and the state of law, thereby weakening the actions of even the most democratic insitutions. The government and the ruling party are mainly responsible for this situation. This situation naturally has a negative influence on all features of national life and its political, legal and economic institutions, including Congress. I believe we are experiencing the last stage, in which the common actions of the political forces are aimed at overcoming the actions or omissions hindering the favorable evolution of democratic normalization in order to achieve a free, broad and generous political life with the consensus of the Paraguayan people. One of the most negative features is the exclusive attitude of the ruling party. All public institutions--whether educational, legal, economic, social, or athletic--carry the exclusive seal of the ruling party.

The opposition cannot act as supervisor in the management of public affairs. It has no access to the necessary institutions in order to ascertain facts firsthand. The opposition is denied any type of information and, what is worse, any type of document needed to perform its task in the interests of the community. The political action of the opposing parties is very restricted and a number of regulations hinder free and secure activities. Police and rural officials, making any excuse, presume to annul de facto rights of citizens and political organizations established by the constitution and the law, thus impairing freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and thought and free movement, which are inalienable principles of republican and representative governments within western democracies. This tends to eliminate the possibility of a common plan of action by all Paraguayans on the national political scene. It is imperative that political parties with legal status agree on some basic principles at the national and international level as a basis to strengthen the process, avoid its complete collapse, and to strengthen the people's faith in democracy and its institutions.

[Question] What is your opinion concerning the present tasks of our legislative branch?

[Answer] The National Congress is the fruit of the 1967 constitution. It adopted the two-chamber system because this is more appropriate to our country's choices and the democratic system. Our Congress was elected on the basis of proportional and multiparty representation, replacing the old congress. Congress must necessarily be the bastion of freedom and democracy; otherwise it would be its first victim. I believe that our congress is achieving its objectives, both at legislative and political levels, within the limitations imposed by the country's situation. Important laws for the country have been studied and approved. The representation of opposing political parties has somewhat filled the democratic vacuum felt by the citizenry.

GOVERNMENT CLAIMS TO BE TARGET OF DESTABILIZATION EFFORT

PA291348v Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1300 GMT 29 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 29 Mar (LATIN)--The revolutionary junta asserted here today that the independent magazines are trying to "destabilize" the military government through "false and whimsical" reports. In the first official communique to be signed jointly by the three commanders of the army, navy and air force, they contended that the press organs are seeking to harm [deteriorar] the armed forces' image in the public's eye and "to undermine their internal cohesiveness.

The bulletin warns that the magazines and weeklies are making an improper use of press freedom and the broad democratic opening sponsored by the government "...to guarantee the best possible development of the electoral process for the Constituent Assembly," scheduled for 4 June.

"The methods used...are characterized by the dissemination of false and whimsical reports connected with the activities of the high armed forces commands," the bulletin adds. The document contends that the press organs give their reports a noticeably sensationalist slant, "thus seeking to harm the image of military institutions and undermine their internal cohesiveness."

"The general commanders of the institutions, reflecting the thinking of the high commands, feel that actions of this type do not contribute to the attainment of harmony and unity among Peruvians, which is so necesssary for the transfer of power process initiated by the government of the armed forces," the bulletin says.

"In view of the foregoing," it says, "the armed forces express their frank repudiation of these actions, which are clearly aimed at obtaining political gains through a fruitless and irresponsible destabilizing effort which we are exposing to the public," the document says in closing. The communique is signed by Gen Oscar Molina, army general commander; Vice Adm Jorge Parodi, navy general commander; and Lt Gen Jorge Tamayo, air force general commander.

MORALES BERMUDEZ HOLDS TALKS WITH WESTERN BANKERS

PY291807Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Yesterday President Morales Bermudez held a special meeting with a group of representatives from the six largest Western banks, with whom he discussed the country's economic and financial situation and the way in which Peru plans to overcome the current crisis.

The special meeting with the bankers' committee, which was created to take care of Peru's new requests for loans from foreign commercial banks, was attended by Economy and Finance Minister Alcibiades Saenz Barsallo and the director general of public credit, (Fernando Abreu).

During this meeting the bankers were acquainted with the actions Peru is carrying out to meet the conditions of the stand-by IMF loan so that it will be able to receive the second disbursment of funds as soon as possible. The bankers were also told that Peru was planning to ask the IMF for a (?waiver). [passage indistinct]

In general terms, the meeting with foreign bankers was judged positive and satisfactory since the questions asked by the bankers were fully answered by local officials.

MISSION DEPARTS FOR USSR TO DISCUSS DEBT REPAYMENT

PA292113Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1954 GMT 29 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 29 Mar (AFP)--Gen Pedro Richter Prada, president of the Joint Command and chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, left for the USSR today on an urgent mission related to Peru's indebtedness to the Soviet Union. Richter Prada is heading a high-level mission composed of Air Force Gen Luis Arias Graziani, chief of the Air Force General Staff, two Economy and Finance Ministry officials and one Industry and Tourism Ministry official.

Principally as a result of the purchase of land and air weapons, Peru has foreign debt commitments with the USSR totaling $4.5 billion. Peru's Western creditors expect to receive $1.0 billion in amortization and interest payments this year. Peru is currently without hard currency to meet its payments abroad. Foreign banks are prepared to advance $260 million which will permit Peru to honor its foreign commitments, but they are making the credit subject to the approval of the IMF, which has imposed severe conditions on granting the loan. Reportedly, these conditions include one to the effect that no money from capitalist sources will be used to pay arms debts owed to socialist countries.

Before boarding the plane, Richter--who announced that he will meet with chief of state Leonid Brezhnev and Prime Minister Aleksey Kosygin--said that "the debt is not as burdensome as some believe, but since we have payment programs for the years 1978, 1979 and 1980, it is necessary to reprogram them and draft a program which will relieve the balance of payments, not only with the Soviet Union but with other countries as well."

A few weeks ago the Soviet Union gave Peru a 3-year grace period before it must begin to repay the credit which it granted Peru at 2 percent interest. The Soviet ambassador to Peru, Leonid Kuzmin, said that "the trip of the Peruvian delegation is a demonstration of our government's good will" and expressed optimism for its results.

From another quarter, an authorized source said that Aeronautics Minister Gen Jorge Tamayo de la Flor will pay a visit to the United States in the near future on a mission similar to that undertaken by General Richter.

DE LA PUENTE PRESENTS AWARD TO ARGENTINE COUNTERPART

PY291445Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Mar 78 PY

[Text] "Peru will exert its utmost efforts to achieve peace and promote dialog among the nations as the only means to put an end to the unbridled arms race, to eradicate the scourge of war and to reach understanding among nations."

In this statement Peruvian Foreign Minister Jose de la Puente Radbill outlined the main objectives of Peruvian diplomacy when he decorated Argentine Foreign Minister Vice Adm Oscar Antonio Montes with the Order of Sol, rank of Grand Cross.

The decoration ceremony took place yesterday at the Peruvian Foreign Ministry and was attended by Maj Gen Pedro Richter Prada, president of the Armed Forces Joint Command; Vice Adm Jorge Parodi Galliani, Peruvian Navy minister; Carlo Furno, apostolic nuncio; Gen Juan Barreda, president of the Peruvian Nuclear Energy Institute; and various officials of the Argentine Embassy and the Peruvian Foreign Ministry.

The Peruvian foreign minister stated that in line with its pacifist nature Peru is supporting the negotiations on total and absolute disarmament, the law of the sea, and the reform of the international economic order, which are pillars of the overall international reorganization.

Minister de la Puente indicated that "in Argentina, Peru has a friendly nation which greatly helps to expand the multilateral dialog, an ability proven by its long-standing and carefully obtained diplomatic traditions, which have left their indelible mark in all contemporary international forums."

The Peruvian foreign minister went on to say that "our countries are engaged in developing all forms of cooperation and in this regard have joined forces to implement the difficult task of developing nuclear energy for peaceful uses and for the benefit or the two peoples."

The Argentine foreign minister stated in response:"it is with deep emotion that I receive from the hands of Your Excellency the high decoration which the president of your nation, Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez, has chosen to bestow upon me, and I wish to take advantage of this opportunity to convey my best wishes for Peru's prosperity and greatness.

Discusses Bolivian Sea Outlet

PY291350Y Santiago Chile Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 29 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Lima--According to Peruvian Foreign Minister Jose de la Puente, Peru has the best of intentions and is ready to continue negotiations with Bolivia and Chile to find a solution to the Bolivian landlocked situation. He added that Peru's participation in the negotiations will be very broad provided the talks follow the appropriate legal norms and Peru is suitably consulted. De la Puente spoke with representatives of various international agencies after concluding a 90-minute meeting with his Argentine colleague, Oscar Antonio Montes.

The minister also said he hoped the problems which caused the break in diplomatic relations between Chile and Bolivia could be solved.

EXPRESO CARRIES 'TRUE TEXT' OF INTERIOR MINISTER'S INTERVIEW

PA3001167 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 22 Mar 78 p 4 PA

[Text] The magazine OIGA publishes in its latest issue a version of the interview granted to that weekly magazine by Interior Minister Gen Luis Cisneros Vizquerra. In accordance with press regulations, General Cisneros has submitted certain rectifications concerning changes and omissions which appeared in the published text. EXPRESO hereafter reproduces the true text of the interview granted by the interior minister:

[Question] Belaunde [Fernando Belaunde Terry] has demanded certain conditions from the Armed Forces Joint Command to run as a candidate for the Constituent Assembly. Have you any comment in this connection?

[Answer] In the first place, the requirements to run as a candidate for the Constitutent Assembly are established in the electoral law that was opportunely promulgated by the revolutionary government. Aside from these requirements, I feel that Belaunde is fully entitled, like any other citizen, to register or not register on his list.

I see no need for action by or a pronouncement from the Armed Forces Joint Command, which is not the body connected with the electoral process as it was established by law.

[Question] Does this mean that no response will be given to Belaunde?

[Answer] I think there should be none.

[Question] The latest appearance on television by President Morales Bermudez was interpreted by some commentators to mean that the Constituent Assembly will not be dissolved even if it does not limit itself to the specific purpose for which it was convened, that is, the drafting of a new constitution. Is this interpretation correct? Could the Constituent Assembly, stemming from the popular vote, become a legislative body and govern in conjunction with the armed forces?

[Answer] My personal opinion is that in order for the Constituent Assembly to become a legislative body it would be necessary for the revolutionary government to enact a law granting it such power.

[Question] Therefore, the Constituent Assembly could in no way decide to appoint a provisional president?

[Answer] The Constituent Assembly has a clear objective which is set forth in the law. In my opinion, this objective cannot be changed unless the law is amended.

[Question] Is there then any possibility that the law will be amended?

[Answer] Everything is possible.

[Question] Both Popular Action and the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance have voiced the need to legalize and constitutionalize the present government through a Constituent Assembly which would elect a provisional president who would turn over power to the civilians elected in 1980. What is your opinion in this regard?

[Answer] I feel that the call for a Constituent Assembly has been made exclusively so that it may enact a new constitution. The assembly would have to become a legislative body in order to make the decision to appoint a provisional president. This would be feasible if the law authorized it.

[Question] As for the economic crisis, do you believe that it is connected with the immediate calling of general elections?

[Answer] I think that the solution to the economic crisis is not directly connected with the general elections. The crisis stems from external and internal problems. I do not believe that any government stemming from immediate general elections would be able to solve the external problems or the country's internal problems overnight.

[Question] All sectors have been insisting that the government of the armed forces has lost credibility and that a new, emergency government is required if credibility is to be restored. What is your opinion on this matter? Do you believe that a political opening allowing more civilians to participate in the government, particularly in the economic and financial sector, would be enough?

[Answer] I think that an opening whereby more civilians could become part of the cabinet is possible.

I would not be in a position to state in which particular sectors, but I do believe that if this were done they should be technicians and independents in order not to characterize the government of the armed forces as being in favor of certain political tendencies.

[Question] Could this possibility be realized in a short period of time?

[Answer] I am not the one who decides this. This decision is adopted at the highest level. It is the president of the republic and the members of the revolutionary junta who do so. However, and this is my personal opinion, I do not know if it could be put into practice within the short or medium term.

[Question] Are you then inclined to place civilians in the cabinet?

[Answer] I think that the opening might be advisable, perhaps after the installation of the Constituent Assembly, but this is my very personal opinion.

[Question] Would you then agree to a certain extent that the government has lost credibility?

[Answer] Not necessarily. I feel that we--our training--is not technical. We are not experts in certain fields. Logically, the presence of more technicians in certain areas would further enhance the government's dynamic efforts. I am not relating this to the government's loss of credibility. Taking into consideration that this is a government of the armed forces, in my opinion the loss of credibility is on the part of the civilians, not the armed forces.

[Question] Do you believe that the ultraleft is solely responsible for the social climate of the last few months?

[Answer] No, I think that the sociopolitical climate we have been experiencing in recent months is the responsibility of all political groups. In my opinion, the political campaign that has been initiated has not been carried out as had been logically expected, that is, with concrete proposals about how the state could be transformed. Instead, the country's extreme left, communist left, the right and the ultraright have engaged exclusively in assailing the government. They have used all the qualifying adjectives in the dictionary of the Spanish Royal Academy to describe us. I do not know if any adjective escaped them. I feel they are mainly responsible for this climate. To some extent and with different objectives, the right and the left are united in the methods being used to create this climate of agitation the country has been experiencing.

[Question] Could you single out any names in the case of the ultraright?

[Answer] I would rather not mention any specific groups or persons because I would not want anyone to think that my sector is against any specific group or persons. I would rather speak in general terms.

[Question] By the way, what do you think the intentions behind the communique of the Businessmen's Union are? Some could say that it is subversive, just like the one published a few days before the national strike held on 27 and 28 February.

[Answer] If the national government were communist, the communique of the Businessmen's Union could be considered subversive. However, since the armed forces government is neither communist nor capitalist, we believe that this is a point of view expressed by professionals following a trend different from communism.

[Question] However, there were cases in which communiques by leftist groups were considered subversive.

[Answer] When they attack the established system, they are considered subversive. We understand subversion as the undertakings of groups wanting to turn their ideas into actions in the belief that power has been transferred to them. The armed forces are in power now because they took that power as a result of their own decision. Anything attacking that power is considered subversive.

[Question] What factors do you believe could frustrate the Constituent Assembly elections or cause the assembly to be dissolved once it has been installed?

[Answer] Perhaps this is the most difficult question. I do not like to make predictions. I believe that basically the government wants the electoral process to be carried out successfully. There is a similar desire among the civilian sectors. If prior to the process some group becomes powerful enough to create a situation which will not allow the government to guarantee the process, then this would create the only situation in which the electoral process would have to be postponed.

After the assembly has been installed we will have to wait and see how it functions. We believe that the representatives elected to the assembly will be the ones most interested in continuing the electoral process.

[Question] Do you believe it is right to spend so much money in attacking the armed forces instead of spending this money to debate constitutional matters?

[Answer] I believe that the money spent in political campaigns is proof of the fact that the people have not accepted the various trends. All the organizations are spending money. In a year of austerity like the one in which we are living these funds could have served to create jobs for the unemployed. Instead, they are being idly spent. It is evident that some groups are spending millions in their campaigns.

[Question] There has been talk about hunger strikes being used as a political instrument and about the support which certain political groups have given to this procedure. Do you have any statement on this?

[Answer] It is evident that hunger strikes have been used as a political procedure especially by the left, not only in Peru but also in other countries. Basically, there is a political reason for this measure. What I cannot understand is why those who strive or claim to strive for the improvement of the living conditions of the needier classes endanger the lives of the members of precisely these classes without caring for the future of their families. I believe this is a crime. I believe that it is not only inhuman and immoral but that fundamentally it is not Christian.

[Question] One last question: Why are you considered a hardliner within the administration?

[Answer] One of the objectives of the government plan is the improvement of morals, which also demands that the principles of respect for authority and respect for the law must be upheld. The interior minister is the person called upon to enforce these principles. Therefore, the hardline image of the interior minister is related to this situation. I do not arrest persons peacefully walking in the streets. We arrest those who disturb law and order. There are some who disagree with the established order. We are holding elections so that another order can be established. However, there must always be order in the country.

Whoever believes that freedom of expression goes beyond the duties which all citizens must have toward the law is mistaken. This is where the repressive image of the interior minister is born, because we have been forced to act firmly. It is one thing to act firmly and another to act with evil intentions. Unfortunately, this creates a situation in which a hardline image is the result. But we cannot talk about a hardline image unless we talk of a softline image, and no one can say that either of the two extremes exists in this administration.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, Mr Minister.

[Second reporter] Thank you very much, Mr Cisneros.

ELECTORAL COURT PRESIDENT SAYS ELECTIONS ON SCHEDULE

PY291748Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 29 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Ulises Montoya Manfredi, president of the Electoral Court, stated yesterday that there is nothing to prevent the election of the national Constituent Assembly scheduled for 4 June. He added that the stages of the process are being fulfilled in accordance with the law.

Montoya made this statement yesterday in response to comments that there are persons who do not believe that the 4 June elections will take place. He reasserted that all these rumors are false and indicated that there are persons who have said so many things that by now they have run out of things to say.

Montoya said that the National Electoral Court is working to see that the electoral process is carried out in accordance with the terms of Decree Law (?21,095) and that any negative rumor is only aimed at hindering the normal development of a wholly honest and unbiased electoral process.

COPPER MINERS STRIKE DECLARED ILLEGAL

PY291440Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1209 GMT 29 Mar 78 PY

[Text] The Peruvian Labor Ministry has defined as illegal the strike of the workers of the Southern Peru Copper Corporation. These workers are supported by the (?Toquepala) Labor Union, the ILO Labor Union and the Union of Metalworkers of ILO.

The decision has been implemented by resolution No 018-78-SR signed by the ministers of labor and energy and mines. In its preamble, the resolution indicates that because mining activities have been declared to be in a state of emergency by Decree Law No 21, 472 and that because the Labor Minister has confirmed that the above-mentioned workers are on strike in spite of this state of emergency, the Labor Ministry has decided to declare the said strike illegal.

PEREZ MAKES STATEMENTS ON TALKS WITH CARTER

PA292315Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 29 Mar 78 PA

[Statement by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez to newsmen at the Miraflores Palace in Caracas on 29 March 1978--recorded]

[Text] I am very satisfied with the results of our conversations with President Carter and his assistants. We made great progress regarding the North-South dialog and the possibilities of successfully continuing it at the UN. We also talked about the problems of Latin American integration and the cooperation that can be obtained from the United States. We also discussed plans concerning cooperation with the Caribbean, general problems important for world peace such as those affecting the Middle East and Africa and also our bilateral relations. Once more, I was able to confirm a receptive attitude on the part of President Carter and that efforts are being made to open the way for a genuine Latin American policy and for more equitable and just relations between the United States and Latin America.

[Question] Mr President, did you talk about oil on a government-to-government level?

[Answer] Yes, we did. We did not specifically concentrate on the oil issue; we merely continued the conversations we had begun in Washington. We went over the conclusions reached by Minister Hernandez and Secretary Schlesinger. We were able to clear up a series of very important issues regarding our oil policy and OPEC's position.

[Question] Did you talk about oil prices and the Orinoco Belt?

[Answer] Apparently we do not have here a clear idea of the problem of the Orinoco belt. The problem of the Orinoco Belt has been turned into a mystery. Venezuela has great interest in developing the Orinoco belt as soon as possible, not just in order to sell more oil--remember that we are trying to preserve our natural resources--but because the country's position could be significantly strengthened if we know the exact amount of our oil reserves and if our oil resources are greater. Besides, from a strategic and economic viewpoint, Venezuela must know not only that it has reserves, which we already know we have, but we must know what type of reserves, how they can be exploited, at what cost and what byproducts can be obtained from the reserves of the nonconventional oil which we have in the Orinoco belt.

[Question] Mr President, did President Carter ask you not to increase oil prices?

[Answer] No, we did not talk about prices.

MINES MINISTRY REPORTS ON OIL, GAS RESERVES

PA291907Y Caracas Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1207 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 27 Mar (VENPRES)--According to the Energy and Mines Ministry, Venezuela's petroleum reserves at the end of 1977 were 17,995 million barrels, which is 1.28 percent less than in 1976.

In an account presented to Congress on last year's operations, the ministry shows that explorations, secondary recuperation programs and the geological reassessments planned by the ministry for 1978 "lead to the expectation that forthcoming petroleum reserves will compensate for the 1977 decrease."

Natural gas reserves for last year were estimated at 1,186,254,000,000 cubic meters, a figure which compared to that of 1976 shows a decrease of 0,34 percent or 4.106 million cubic meters less.

In the general field of drilling, in 1977 the Energy and Mines Ministry increased its assessment of oil deposits both in eastern and western Venezuela adding about 540 million barrels of new reserves, "a significant figure," the report says, "although not large enough to alter the present trend toward producing more petroleum than is discovered by exploration."

LABOR CENTRAL ASKS U.S. TO ELIMINATE NEUTRON BOMB

PA300137Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 29 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The Unified Workers Federation of Venezuela [CUTV] has asked President Jimmy Carter to eliminate the neutron bomb.

CUTV directors also sent a telegram to the U.S. Congress asking that the neutron bomb be prohibited. They also asked President Carter to maintain a policy of peaceful coexistance. CUTV considers the neutron bomb to be a threat to world peace.

TV COMMENTATOR ANALYZES DECONCINI, NUNN RESERVATIONS

PA291420Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

["Analysis of the News" commentary by Mario Velasquez]

[Text] Of the group of reservations, understandings and amendments approved by the U.S. Senate, there are two which cause the most concern. They are the reservations presented by Democratic Senators Sam Nunn and Dennis DeConcini. Nunn's reservation states that nothing in the treaty shall preclude Panama and the United States from making, in accordance with their respective constitutional processes, any agreement or arrangement between the two countries to facilitate at any time after 31 December 1999 the fulfillment of their responsibilities to maintain the regime of neutrality established in the treaty, including agreements or arrangements for the stationing of any U.S. military forces or the maintenance of U.S. defense sites in the Republic of Panama after that date that Panama and the United States may consider necessary or appropriate.

In fact, what this reservation intends is to leave open the possibility to negotiate for the maintenance of U.S. armed forces in Panama after 31 December 1999, the date after which, according to the canal treaty, there will be no foreign troops in our country. Although a reservation of this nature has the strength of the fact that one of the signers is the foremost military power of the world, which today has military bases in our country and inexhaustible resources to force negotiations, this amendment, in its specific wording, in any case leaves open the alternative of negotiations between the two parties. Panama could or could not negotiate, reach an agreement or not reach an agreement on the maintenance of U.S. defense sites in our country after the year 2000. This is a power or prerogative which it would have anyway, whether Senator Sam Nunn's reservation existed or not.

However, it would seem very premature to include in the neutrality treaty a clause to negotiate for an eventuality which could occur in any case within 23 years.

The other worrisome reservation is the one submitted by Senator Dennis DeConcini, Democrat from Arizona. This reservation states textually: Notwithstanding the provisions of Article V or any other provision of the treaty, if the canal is closed or its operation, are interfered with, the Republic of Panama and the United States shall each independently have the right to take such steps as it deems necessary, including the use of military force in Panama, to reopen the canal or restore the operations of the canal, as the case may be.

This reservation, approved by the Senate with the consent of President Carter, constitutes the real crux of the problem. Its text is fairly clear, and the conclusion is simple: This amendment establishes the unilateral U.S. right to intervene in Panama with military force to reopen the canal and reestablish its operation, as the case may be.

Some might think that Senator DeConcini's reservation is a kind of expansion, with different wording, of the principles contained in the Torrijos-Carter joint declaration of 14 October, which refers to the responsibility which the United States and Panama have to insure that the canal will remain secure and open to the ships of all nations, which says that each of the two countries, according to their respective constitutional processes, will defend the canal against any threat to the regime of neutrality and consequently shall have the right to act in case of aggression or threat directed against the canal or against the peaceful transit of ships through the canal.

However, this declaration of understanding incorporated as an amendment to the treaty ends by saying that it does not mean and will not be interpreted as the right to U.S. intervention in the internal affairs of Panama. Any action on the part of the United States will be directed toward insuring that the canal will remain open, secure and accessible and that it will never be directed against the territorial integrity and political independence of Panama.

Let us now see what Senator Dennis DeConcini says about his reservation approved by the Senate. We have already read the text of the reservation, and the local press has published it. If that reservation worries us after reading it, let us now see what Senator DeConcini said in the U.S. Senate on the afternoon of 16 March when he explained the scope of his reservation: The purpose of this reservation, Mr President, is very simple. It is designed to establish a precondition for the acceptance of the neutrality treaty by the United States. This precondition establishes that, disregarding any reason and in spite of any other measure which the neutrality treaty may establish or to whatever other interpretation it may be subjected, if the Panama Canal is closed, the United States has the right to enter Panama by any means that may be necessary to reopen the canal.

Senator DeConcini added: There are no conditions, no exceptions or limitations to this right. By the terms of this amendment the United States will decide when that necessity exists and will exercise its own judgment about the means necessary to insure that the canal will remain open and accessible.

Many of the discussions with respect to the Panama Canal treaty, added DeConcini, have centered on threats which might come from third parties, specifically from communist countries. While this concern is certainly justified, I have been equally concerned over the possibility that internal Panamanian activities could also become a threat to the waterway. Labor strikes, the actions of an unfriendly government, disorders and political uprisings, each one, separately or jointly, could cause the closing of the canal. As I read the treaties, there is no specific guarantee that any stoppage of the canal arising from the internal activities of the Panamanian may be rapidly and adequately handled.

DeConcini goes on to say: Although General Torrijos has brought a substantial degree of stability to Panama in these recent years, it can be argued that Panama's history is one of instability and political unrest. Senator DeConcini goes on to say that under normal circumstances the United States should not contemplate interfering in the internal affairs of another nation. However, there exist unique and special circumstances surrounding the relations between the United States and Panama. Since the turn of this century, the United States has exercised de facto sovereignty over the Panama Canal Zone. We have maintained this control over the canal for a simple reason. The Panama Canal is vital to the security, economy and armed forces of the United States.

This fact, DeConcini says, must be recognized in any treaty contemplating fundamental changes in U.S.-Panamanian relations. The amendment contains a very specific reference to the use of military force in Panama. I believe, DeConcini says, that these words are absolutely crucial because they establish the right--which I am not convinced is adequately contemplated in the body of the treaties or in the leadership amendments--of the United States to take military action if warranted by the circumstances. Furthermore, DeConcini says, this amendment makes it very clear that the United States can take military action in Panamanian territory without the consent of the Panamanian Government.

The Arizona senator then goes on to say: This issue of consent is also crucial because this amendment is directed primarily at situations in which the canal is closed due to internal tourble in Panama, such as strikes, political uprisings or other similar events, in which case Panamanian permission to take military action would be meaningless.

He then adds: If the United States must have a right under this treaty, that right must be to act independently to protect and keep the canal open.

Concluding, Senator Dennis DeConcini adds the following in one of his closing paragraphs: I hope the Senate will support this amendment I am submitting to the resolution of ratification granting the United States the right to keep the canal open. I am also pleased to announce that the U.S. President has supported this change and has indicated that it will be a constructive step toward achieving the goals of the neutrality treaty.

I feel this supporting speech delivered by Senator DeConcini will be a very important factor when the time comes to evaluate the nature and the scope of the reservation he submitted and which the U.S. Senate incorporated into the resolution of ratification. This closes our analysis for today.

Tomorrow, dear listeners, we will continue with our comments on and analysis of this topic, which is so important and exciting topic to Panamanians.

CAMILO TORRES CIRCLE MEMBER CRITICIZES TREATY CHANGES

PA291803Y Panama City Cadena Exitosa in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Mar 78 PA

[Statement by Olimpo Saenz, member of the Camilo Torres Circle, on the 27 March Foreign Ministry communique on the U.S. Senate resolution to the Panama Canal neutrality treaty, during the "Canonero de Domplin" program--live]

[Excerpt] The nation, the Panamanians of today and tomorrow, can never accept, under any circumstances, these amendments, which are extremely humiliating to the nation and to every Panamanian. Neither can they accept the reservations and understandings, for similar reasons.

The treaty submitted to the consideration of the Panamanian people in the 23 October plebiscite did not include these reservations, understandings, or amendments. Since a treaty is a document between two nations and since the United States added reservations and amendments and the Panamanians approved a treaty in a plebiscite that did not include these reservations and amendments, then the Panamanian people must express its position concerning these amendments, reservations and understandings.

According to the U.S. Constitution, it is the Senate's duty to ratify the treaty. According to the Panamanian Constitution, the treaty must be approved by the Panamanian people in a plebiscite, as provided by Article 274.

Romulo [Escobar Bethancourt] may say anything, just as he has been doing since he became Torrijos' adviser. He said these reservations and amendments are palatable. The only palatable thing here is the Panamanian people, who must express themselves; the only palatable thing here is the predominance of the nation's permanent interests over the government's interests, over the chief of staff's interests, over the interests of the $50 million offered to the National Guard, over the interests of the permanence of Torrijos as head of state, over the interests of all those close friends, or, as Diogenes de la Rosa said, the close enemies in power who have been feasting for the last 10 years on the public treasury which they refuse to give up. That is why they tell Torrijos the amendments and the reservations are palatable. Nothing in those amendments is palatable to the Panamanian people. On the contrary, it is dirty water, contaminated with germs that will last for 23 years and, in fact, perpetuity, but only the terms have been changed. The people have been deceived on many occasions. In the Spanish and English languages, perpetuity and permanence mean the same thing: something that is forever, that never ends.

INDEPENDENT LAWYERS FAVOR REJECTION OF TREATY AMENDMENTS

PA291927Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Text] In a lengthy communique to the nation delivered to the communications media this afternoon, the Movement of Independent Lawyers [MAI] makes an extensive analysis of the amendments, reservations and understandings attached to the resolution of ratification of the neutrality treaty and ends by asking the government to reject said reservations.

The MAI notes that this is the only way the Republic of Panama can safeguard its sovereignty and give proof that it is consistent with the people's struggle and the tide of history, which will eventually raze all colonialist structures still existing in the world.

The extensive communique is signed by Carlos Ivan Zuniga, Bolivar Davalos, Carlos Enrique Adames, Joaquin Ortega, Juan Felipe de la Iglesia, Garcia Almengor, Mario Galindo, Tomas Herrera, Rodrigo Sanchez, Jose Manuel Faundez, Natividad Pinango, Elsa de Garcia and Diogenes Arosemena.

MATUTINO URGES CALM STUDY OF TREATY AMENDMENTS

PA291626Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 29 Mar 78 p 4-A PA

[Editorial: "At the Edge of the Great Decision"]

[Text] With a high sense of responsibility that will go down in history, the revolutionary government, through the Foreign Ministry, has released to the nation the text of the U.S. Senate resolution on the Panama Canal neutrality treaty.

This information, which has reached the public before the document is officially delivered to the Panamanian Government, is intended by the government to educate our people about the changes to the treaty so they can express their comprehensive, calm and, above all, patriotic opinion.

The language used in that resolution is clear, precise, without any contradictory terms or legal jargon. The senators say what the United States wants, how it wants it and how long it wants it. They also state what that nation will not do, what must be conceded both on their part and on Panama's regarding certain clauses of the neutrality treaty. In effect, what the Senate documents convey, according to the resolution, is how the senators feel, how we should feel, how they speak and how they must be interpreted. To all of this they add how we should feel regarding their interpretation of that treaty and how they want us to interpret what is written therein.

Going even further, the added documents specify the cases in which Panama and the United States jointly can or must act according to given circumstances. And going even further, they also state when they can act unilaterally in circumstances which they and/or we, jointly or by supposition [por supuesto], consider an attack against the Panama Canal's neutrality.

It is left up to the analytical minds of Panamanian jurists to make a deep and detailed study of these amendments and the amended treaty. To us, the men in the street, the Panamanians who feel and who by feeling give an opinion of mind and soul, we have only--but not least--to make an evaluation of those amendments in terms of the whole. We will obtain a clear concept of them in the light of the debates which surely will be elicited by such a significant topic and await the government's decision on behalf of the Panamanian people.

That decision (it is good to know this and to trust that it will not be any other way because there is no reason to doubt it) will never be made without regard for the interests of the fatherland. In making the decision the team led by General Torrijos will listen to as many Panamanians as wish to state their opinion regarding an issue which commits us before history. And it will be a decision born of national dignity and the course set by the people when they approved the Torrijos-Carter treaty in the 23 October 1977 plebiscite--that treaty, and not another with added documents which distort the essence of the one approved by Panama.

Because if they present us a disfigured, altered document in place of the one signed by a Panamanian in the presence of the chiefs of state of America, then we would face two treaties, that of 1903 and that of 1978, the latter having been subjected to Senate surgery without the benefit of an anesthetic and containing no Panamanian signature. The watchword of the moment is to wait calmly, analyze thoroughly and decide with dignity.

STRENGTH SEEN IN GOVERNMENT SILENCE ON TREATY CHANGES

PA291521Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Danilo Caballero commentary]

[Text] The calmness of our people is tantamount to struggle. The approval of the Torrijos-Carter neutrality treaty--with the amendments, reservations and other limitations imposed on the original test by the U.S. Senate--is undoubtedly the vital focus of political expectations in Panama. This is understandable if we take into consideration that the canal problem is not only a matter of extreme sensitivity for our people but one of primary importance to the revolutionary process because it establishes a landmark in the true beginning of the decolonization of our territory. The attitude adopted by the people and the government has been the right one.

The position to be adopted now is one of impartial, comprehensive and sensible analysis of the amendments we already know and those that will undoubtedly be added to the second treaty. This position has nothing to do with the passions and resentments of the fatalism regarding our geographic position which prevailed in Panama in previous decades. An impartial analysis should be made because what is at stake is the destiny of the fatherland, the very existence of our people who are in a difficult position. A comprehensive analysis also should be made because it is impossible to analyze the new situation created by the amendments and reservations without looking at all of the implications at the national and international levels. It should be a sensible analysis, because it implies that a people with our pride and sensitivity will never accept anything that would offend, even in the slightest, our dignity and our condition as free men.

The stand taken by Omar has, then, been the correct one. It is that no official position will be stated until the debates on the second treaty are held and it becomes evident what new cats the senators are going to let out of the bag. Meanwhile, the amendments and reservations are being studied from two necessary angles: the legal and the political. We Panamanians possess the basic ability to visualize the future without hurrying and in terms of the revolutionary line.

There are the 9 years of struggle of the revolutionary government and even more directly the historic words of Omar's letter to President Carter. In this letter, our people, through the chief of government, reminded U.S. imperialism that neither our geographical size nor the difference in wealth of the two countries allows a large nation to offend the dignity of a courageous people.

Our historical struggle has been for decolonization--to remove the ignominious enclave and the U.S. military presence from our territory.

Our people approved the Torrijos-Carter treaties because they realized that we were smaller in strength and saw the treaties as a guarantee of decolonization. Logically, if the treaties deviate from their original aim of decolonization they are no longer what the people approved in the October plebiscite. It is worthwhile to recall all of this, especially because it is the stand adopted by Omar, who together with the people and the national guard will make sure that decolonization becomes a tangible reality for the generations to come. Consequently, we must have a clear picture of this game of amendments and reservations. We must realize that what is really desired is to limit the development of the revolutionary process by circumscribing all our aspirations. This is only one part of the problem. The other is the defeatist attitude of certain sectors which have never understood that a struggle for national liberation and a revolutionary process in a country such as ours are determined by complex situations which are not evident at first glance.

No, gentlemen of the historic fatalism, the revolution is not a party or a game. It is a very difficult science. It is a continuous struggle, and its duration cannot be determined by individual desires but by specific conditions.

Those of us who were born with the revolutionary process as a coherent voice in the media have complete trust in Omar and in our people. We know as well as everybody should that negotiations were chosen as the sacrifice with the least social cost. But the calmness of our people and revolutionary government should not be confused with apathy or lack of enthusiasm. On the contrary, that calmness is synonymous with struggle because those who are ready to give everything for the fatherland do not have to brag about it. In the revolutionary struggle calmness is a basic condition which reflects maturity. And in the same manner in which we calmly analyze the meaning of amendments and reservations, we will confront any new situation that may arise and defend the honor of Panama. We are certain that the man who has placed our fatherland in a position of international dignity for the past 9 years is the one who will take up to the final victory.

COLUMNIST EXAMINES SENATE'S TREATY APPROVAL ROLE

PA291299Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 28 Mar 78 p 4 PA

["Bona Fide" column by Camilo O. Perez]

[Text] When the canal and neutrality treaties were still being negotiated, we wrote in this same column about the U.S. Senate's role in the treaties' ratification. We were not mistaken when we said that there were three alternatives:

1. That the Senate would ratify the treaties as accepted by Panama.
2. That it will definitively reject them.
3. That it will return them with reservations and amendments.

Today we are faced with the third alternative. Therefore, we believe that it would be well to reprint the column published last August. It reads as follows:

Can the Senate change or amend a treaty? Article II, Section 2, Paragraph 2 of the U.S. Constitution determines that the president can make international treaties "with the Senate's advice and consent based on a two-thirds majority vote of the senators present at the time of voting."

Notwithstanding this constitutional precept, practice as well as jurisprudence have reduced the senatorial function to the simple ratification of treaties. Therefore, the power and prerogative of negotiating international treaties has been left exclusively in presidential hands.

It is understood, however, that a pragmatic president will do everything possible to have both chambers on his side when negotiating treaties. This can be done by keeping Congress constantly informed, having the Congress' prior approval of the treaty in question or at least keeping the Senate Foreign Relations Committee informed about treaties that could present problems.

In 1936 the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision in this respect in the case of the United States versus the Curtiss Wright Corporation.

The Senate's specific functions begin when it is asked to approve a previously negotiated treaty. When this situation arises, the alternatives are the following:

A. Unconditionally approve the treaty in question.
B. Deny its approval.
C. Accept the treaty with conditions by stipulating a series of changes or amendments to the treaty.

However, the third option will practically create another treaty and would call for negotiations between the two parts involved. The Senate cannot, by means of amendments, impose its will on a sovereign nation. This was clearly established by the Supreme Court in the case of the Fourteen Diamond Rings versus the United States.

The above article, based on a consultation made by Dr Hugo Spadafora, means that the third possibility, previously considered and a reality today, establishes the criteria for a rejection by means of amendments and reservations from the point of view of U.S. jurisdiction. Whatever Mr Carter says now is in conflict with this juridical tradition. We shall continue....

COSTA RICA

ASSEMBLY TO SHELVE RADIO-TELEVISION BILL

PA291817Y San Jose Cadena de Emisoras Columbia in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The radio and television bill will be shelved. Deputies of various political parties generally agree that it will be materially impossible to study or take action on the draft radio and television bill, which prompted yesterday's network of silence of several hours and by 41 radio station and 4 television channels.

Some deputies interpreted the network as a tempest in a teapot in view of the fact that it was impossible for the bill to leave the committee for debate by the assembly.

Also, not even in the financial affairs committee is there a majority consensus on the advisability of establishing a law regulating radio and television which grants the state 51 percent control of radio and television enterprises.

EL SALVADOR

SALVADORAN-HONDURAN CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING POSTPONED

PA292005Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1750 GMT 29 Mar 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 29 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The meeting planned for late March or early April between the Honduran and Salvadoran chiefs of state, their spouses and advisers has been postponed to an undetermined date and place.

According to Salvadoran Foreign Ministry sources, the meeting between Honduran chief of state Gen Juan Alberto Melgar and Salvadoran President Gen Carlos Humberto Romero may take place between 3 April and 3 May. Thus, the meeting would be held shortly before a visit to the two countries by former Peruvian President Luis Bustamante y Rivero, mediator in the bilateral peace negotiations.

Bustamante y Rivero will officially take up his post on 3 April in a ceremony in Lima to be attended by the foreign ministers of the two countries, Roberto Palma Galvez (Honduras) and Alvaro Ernesto Martinez (El Salvador).

Relations between the two countries have been broken since the July 1969 border clash between the armies of the two countries.

BENAVIDES CHAVERRI TO BE NAMED JUSTICE MINISTER

PA292052Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 29 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Lawyer and writer Enrique Benavides Chaverri, a columnist for LA NACION, will be President Rodrigo Carazo's justice minister. This information was obtained from reliable sources. When releasing the names of his cabinet ministers, Carazo said he had entrusted his new attorney general, Elizabeth Odio, with organizing the future Justice Ministry but he did not say who the minister would be.

SECURITY FORCES ON ALERT FOR MORE VIOLENCE

PA291610Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1220 GMT 29 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Nineteen persons charged with belonging to the Farm Workers Union, the Salvadoran Christian Peasants Federation, and DPR [not further identified] and being responsible for violent incidents in San Pedro Perulpan were arrested and presented to the press by the National Guard in Sal Salvador. It was also reported that elements of the Nationalist Democratic Organization [Organization Democratica Nacionalista] were also involved, according to eyewitness reports.

The security corps continue on alert to prevent a repetition of the disorders that took place during Holy Week, especially on Easter Sunday. The presidential press office says that extensive communiques were released on these incidents.

BOMB EXPLOSION IN SANTA ANA MAYOR-ELECT'S HOUSE

PA291613Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1220 GMT 29 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Last night at 2320 a bomb exploded in the house of the mayor-elect of Santa Ana, 65 km from San Salvador. The bomb caused considerable property damage, SERCANO's correspondent in western El Salvador reported. The house is owned by Ernesto Mathies Salgado, the victorious government party candidate for mayor of Santa Ana, San Salvador's second largest city.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT MINISTER SAYS COUP PLOT SMASHED

PA292305Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2208 GMT 29 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 29 Mar (LATIN)--Government Minister Donaldo Alvarez Ruiz said today that a plot to overthrow the government of President Kjell Eugenio Laugerud Garcia has been smashed by the security forces. Alvarez Ruiz, who is also director of the pro-government Democratic Institutional Party [PID], which backed Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia in the last elections, last week denounced a plan to assassinate the president and accused the National Liberation Movement [MLN] of drafting the plan.

After the elections, which were labeled as a fraud by the losing MLN and Christian Democracy, the security forces instituted special vigilance throughout Guatemala. The measure is still in effect and is directed at searching for and confiscating weapons. The measure was especially drastic in eastern Guatemala in an effort to prevent armed people from entering the capital following the MLN's appeal for demonstrations against the denounced electoral fraud.

The MLN called off the protest demonstrations in front of the National Palace in view of Holy Week and initiated legal action to stop the Congress from electing Gen Romeo Lucas Garcia as president. The court accepted the action and gave both sides 48 hours, which expire tomorrow, to submit proof. The MLN contends that the congressional action was illegal because several demands for nullification of the 5 March elections results were pending.

In the eastern city of Chiquimula, the traditional seat of the MLN, police carried out an inspection over the weekend and confiscated a large number of weapons and arrested three persons. These arms belonged to David Pacheco, who has connections with the MLN. With a personal guard of more than 20 men he instilled fear into the population of that department, according to reports from Chiquimula.

Minister Alvarez Ruiz said today that there is a plot to overthrow the government, adding that the MLN is involved in the affairs. The director of the rightist MLN, Mario Sandoval Alarcon, is now vice president of the republic.

From another quarter, an army colonel who was walking by the MLN headquarters yesterday was shot and remains in critical condition. The army's public relations office issued a communique accusing a man named Mendizabal as being the attacker and a member of the MLN.

For its part, the MLN sent a message to President Laugeruo denouncing a plan involving constant harassment of the party. It said that armed men in a passing car shot at the party headquarters yesterday, wounding one person (Colonel Huber Arana).

NICARAGUA

U.S. AMBASSADOR SOLAUN'S ACTIONS DENOUNCED

PA3001557 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1625 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--U.S. Ambassador to Nicaragua Mauricio Solaun has been publicly accused of having denied diplomatic protection to a young North American identified as Pedro Jose Chamorro Arguello. Guillermo Frutos Chamorro Arguello, Pedro Jose's brother, has sent a letter containing this information to the most important news media in the country. Guillermo Frutos states that his brother Pedro Jose, who was born in the United States, felt that he was being persecuted for political reasons and requested diplomatic protection in the U.S. Embassy in this capital on 7 February. The letter adds that Pedro Jose was advised at the U.S. Embassy "to go to Costa Rica using various trails." According to Guillermo, U.S. diplomatic officials told his brother "to leave the embassy, thus putting his life in danger." The letter adds that, finally, the U.S. Embassy decided to drive Pedro Jose in a U.S. Embassy vehicle to the Mexican Embassy in this capital where the young man was given diplomatic protection. Pedro Jose Chamorro Arguello is now in Mexico.

The brother of the refugee has criticized Ambassador Solaun and has "demanded a satisfactory explanation" regarding the reasons why he refused diplomatic protection to a young man born in the United States while he has given refuge to some Cuban-Americans who are executives of Plasmaferesis, center of the blood industry in this capital--a business dedicated to exporting human blood--which was set on fire on 11 January.

The ambassador is also criticized for having given asylum to Arthur Sharington, a U.S. criminal, while asylum was denied to Chamorro Arguello.

OPPOSITION LEADER COMMENTS ON VISIT TO U.S.

PA300425Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0103 GMT 29 Mar 78 PA

[By Filadelfo Martinez]

[Text] Managua, 28 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Fernando Aguero Rocha, former member of the national government junta and head of one of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party factions, today asserted that the Inter-American Human Rights Commission [CIDH] "is exerting pressure for the purpose of visiting Nicaragua."

Aguero Rocha said at his home in Lomas de Villafontana that the commission "wants to witness the extent to which human rights are complied with in Nicaragua."

Aguero Rocha, who is an ophtalmologist and the former top leader of the Nicaraguan opposition, held a press conference today to report on his recent trip to the United States where he gave "long and detailed" explanations to "top political officials" of the State Department and the U.S. Congress on the Nicaraguan situation.

He said that he met with CIDH Executive Secretary Eugenio Vargas Carreno who told him that the commission "has a strong desire to visit Nicaragua." Aguero Rocha added that the commission is willing to work "day and night" and to visit remote areas of the country in order "to investigate human rights violations in Nicaragua."

Moreover, the commission has received reports regarding respect for human rights in this Central American nation and "is ready to submit a report in the next few days if the Nicaraguan Government refuses to permit the visit of CIDH officials. The refusal would be included in this report."

Regarding a possible visit of CIDH officials, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Julio Quintana said yesterday that President Somoza has not been reluctant concerning it but that this is not considered to be the right time to invite them "because they could be attacked" by Sandinist guerrillas.

In addition, Aguero Rocha said that U.S. aid had previously arrived in Nicaragua in an "indiscriminate" manner and had never reached the popular masses as it remained "entangled" in Nicaragua's top bureaucracy. However, it is my opinion that now, with the change experienced after Carter's election, "economic aid has been channeled by drops through strictly controlled mixed loans so that the aid can reach the people."

Aguero Rocha stressed that he explained to the State Department and to the House of Representatives that "Nicaragua has no international conflicts. Consequently, U.S. military assistance is used solely to oppress the people."

Aguero Rocha has been criticized for giving information to the U.S. Government. He replied to this by stating that "I did not ask for help from the U.S. Government; I only went there to state the Nicaraguan case because we cannot sit idly by in view of the human dilemma of Nicaraguans."

HAVANA ON CARTER VISITS TO VENEZUELA, BRAZIL

Discouragement in Caracas

FL300052Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 78 FL

[Text] North American President Jimmy Carter has left a trail of discouragement and disappointment in his wake following the conclusion today of his 22-hour visit to Venezuela, having contributed nothing new to solve the pressing problems of the so-called Third World in general and Venezuela in particular.

Carter proceeded on to Brazil this morning. From there he will cross the Atlantic to Liberia and Nigeria, thereby making the first visit by a North American president to that region of Africa.

In an analysis from Caracas, AFP states textually: Venezuelan economic observers did not hide their discouragement and disappointment upon hearing Carter's remarks today at the National Congress, which were limited to statements for the future to overcome the world crisis but lacked important announcements. On the other hand, President Carlos Andres Perez told Carter that what Latin America expects from the United States is not special treatment or a special relationship, but rather fair treatment. The Venezuelan chief executive pointed out that Latin American countries demand fair treatment, not as a reward for friendship, but rather as a right acquired in our relations and by the contributions to the great progress the United States has achieved using our raw materials.

Besides the official protocol reception, there were popular demonstrations in Venezuela repudiating Carter's visit.

Brazil Trip Previewed

FL291845Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Mar 78 FL

[Text] U.S. President Jimmy Carter will arrive in Brazil today continuing the tour begun yesterday in Venezuela and then continuing on to Nigeria and Liberia, the latter two countries on the African Continent. Carter is accompanied by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, his security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski and Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs Terence Todman, among others. It has been learned that the North American leader will discuss bilateral commercial relations and Brazilian nuclear development with the chief of the Brazilian regime, Ernesto Geisel. As is known, Brazil is an important area for North American capital investments. Official figures show that in 1975 that South American country was first in Latin America and seventh in the world as a recipient of Yankee investments.

Brazilian students have held a national day of protest, with meetings and demonstrations in various cities against President Jimmy Carter's visit to that country. The demonstrators demanded restitution of democratic liberties and freedom for political prisoners.

CYPRIOT SOCIALIST LEADER VISITS ICAP HEADQUARTERS

FL300115Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Cypriot socialist party chairman Vassos Lyssarides today visited the headquarters of the Cuban Institute for Friendship with Peoples [ICAP] where he was received by its president, Rene Rodriguez Cruz, and other Cuban officials. At the meeting the visitor gave a briefing on the situation in his country. Commenting on his impressions of Cuba, Lyssarides stated that there is complete concurrence between his party and the position of the Cuban revolution with regard to emphasis on the problems which affect humanity.

END TO ARMS RACE URGED AT LISBON MEETING

FL292027Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2002 GMT 29 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The Cuban delegation to the 122d meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, being held in Lisbon, Portugal, has stressed the urgent need to end the arms race and prohibit the production of weapons of mass destruction. Jose Aranaburo, secretary of the National People's Government Assembly and chief of the Cuban delegation, spoke during the first session of the committee on political issues, international security and disarmament. The Cuban delegate declared that it is necessary to extend political detente to the military field. He also emphasized the large investments in military expenditures when a third of the world still lives under subhuman conditions.

Aranaburo added that many developing countries have been forced to expand expenditures to increase their defense capability, but this does not contradict a foreign policy of detente, coexistence and cooperation. Jose Aranaburo recalled the words of our country's maximum leader Fidel Castro to the effect that the philosophy of war will disappear once the philosophy of plundering disappears. He also referred to Fidel's remarks at the First PCC Congress on the need to reinforce the struggle for peace.

The Cuban leader said that the neutron bomb is an example of the anguished reality and that the world's repudiation is evident in severely condemning the building of that criminal weapon by the United States. The chief of the Cuban delegation emphasized the importance which the elimination of military bases in Puerto Rico, Panama, the Virgin Islands and Cuba would have for Latin America.

JUAN ALMEIDA CHAIRS EASTERN PROVINCES HARVEST MEETING

FL291138Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 29 Mar 78 FL

[Text] PCC Politburo member Juan Almeida Bosque has chaired a meeting held by the five eastern provinces to examine harvest efforts. In his speech at the event, the commander of the revolution urged Guantanamo and Santiago de Cuba provinces to make greater efforts to attain high and stable milling to take advantage of current cane yields.

Another speaker at the plenum was Diocles Torralba, national chief of the harvest sector, who pointed out the good work reported by the eastern provinces since 24 February. He said that the response given to Fidel's appeal for 100 days of decisive effort was firm and adequate to the economic needs that have arisen. He indicated that the strategy that must be followed in each province during the months of May and June is important because of harvest difficulties created by the rain. In that respect he explained the need for fulfilling the spring cane planting plan and stepping up efforts in the mills' sugar production plans in the next few days.

The meeting was attended by Alfonso Hodge, Jose Ramon Balaguer, Miguel Cano, Faure Chomon and Emilio Loo, first secretaries of the party provincial committees in Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba, Holguin, Las Tunas and Granma respectively.

CDR NATIONAL SEMINAR OPENS IN HAVANA

FL292012Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The national seminar for Committees for the Defense of the Revolution--CDR--coordinators began this morning in Havana city. Jorge Lezcano, PCC Central Committee member and CDR national coordinator, opened the important CDR activity.

Presiding with Lezcano at the dais of the seminar were other members of that mass organization national directorate.

Lezcano stated in his opening remarks that the seminar, at which more than 200 CDR leaders are participating, will discuss important topics to carry out better CDR work. Among the topics are: importance of the functioning organizations, information and its relation to management directives, and ideological struggle. A special report will be given on preparations for the 11th World Youth and Students Festival.

Attending this event, which will meet through Friday, are the coordinators of the 14 provinces and the Isle of Pines Special Municipality, along with those from the 168 municipalities of the country and over 40 cadres from the CDR National Directorate.

At the first meeting of the seminar, Dr Orlando Carnota, professor of Havana University, gave a special presentation on information and its relation to management directives. Afterward, Justice Minister Dr Armando Torres Santrayll gave a special presentation on the draft penal code, pointing out its importance in the sphere of socialist law.

The CDR national seminar, the first to be held since the First CDR Congress, will continue this afternoon.

BRIEFS

STAINLESS STEEL FOUNDRY--Installation of the highest quality stainless steel foundry acquired by Cuba has been completed following today's tests of its basic equipment with satisfactory results. According to plans, the modern Japanese plant will have an annual production of 900 tons of optimum-quality parts for the sugar, chemical, foodstuff and other industries. Its high degree of automation and mechanization will make it possible for the plant to have a very small labor force. Workers and technicians are working to put this complex Havana city industry into operation within a few days. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Mar 78 FL]

SOVIET SUPERTANKER--The Soviet supertanker (Kuzhbah), with a deadweight of 150,000 tons, has dropped anchor in the Bay of Nipe. This is its first trip to Cuba. It is transporting 145,000 tons of petroleum for the Nico Lopez Refinery in Havana and the Hermanos Diaz Refinery in Santiago de Cuba. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Mar 78 FL]

POET TO MEXICO--Cuban poet and essayist Roberto Fernandez Retamar, director of the magazine CASA DE LAS AMERICAS and member of the governing council of that cultural organization, has departed for Mexico where he will participate, as a member of the jury, in the national poetry contest sponsored by that country's National Institute of Fine Arts. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Mar 78 FL]

CTC CONGRESS COMMISSION--Havana Province's organizing commission of the 14th congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC] was officially established today. It is headed by Rene Fontaina, member of Havana Province's party executive bureau, and composed of 49 other comrades, 11 of whom are members of the provincial executive board, 7 members of the CTC Secretariat and 4 trade union secretaries general. The first vice president of the commission is Fernando (CIO) and Miriam Diaz is the secretary. Seven working committees were created which will be charged with the preparation and discussion of the topics as well as the organization of the CTC's provincial and municipal conferences. The event was chaired by Franciso Travieso of the CTC National Directorate. [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1907 GMT 22 Mar 78 FL]

MAS NOMINATES BALAGUER FOR PRESIDENT

PA272348Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2119 GMT 27 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 28 Mar (EFE)--By unanimous acclamation, the Social Movement (MAS) has nominated President Joaquin Balaguer as its presidential candidate for the 16 May elections. As had been expected, MAS--formed by dissident leaders and members of the Christian Social Revolutionary Party--decided to nominate President Balaguer, who has also been nominated by his Reformist Party along with Fernando Alvarez Bogaert, current Dominican ambassador to Venezuela, as the other member of that ticket. The MAS delegates gave a vote of authorization to their party's national executive committee to decide on the post of vice president and other elected offices and to sign a unity pact with the ruling party.

RULING, OPPOSITION PARTIES SIGN ELECTORAL PACT

PA291856Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1805 GMT 28 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Santo Domingo, 28 Mar (LATIN)--The ruling Reformist Party (PR) and the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), the largest opposition party, have signed an agreement of "mutual respect to promote a clear campaign and peace during the current electoral process." The signing of the document by President Joaquin Balaguer, who is also the PR's chairman and the PRD's presidential and vice presidential candidates, Silvestre Antonio Guzman and Jacobo Majluta, resulted from a meeting held 3 weeks ago. PRD leaders said that the agreement had not been proposed by any of the parties and that it came out of the talks of 10 March.

The PR-PRD agreement has four points, the first of which provides that "joint efforts will be made during the upcoming electoral process to uphold the strictest norms of respect, unity and harmony, avoiding offensive attacks and using democratic and civilized methods during the campaign to guarantee the institutionality of the process." The two parties pledge "to respect and support the outcome of the national elections, which must be, in their freedom and strength, a true expression of popular will." The agreement binds the PRD and PR to maintain "absolute respect for and to offer full guarantees to the candidates, leaders, relatives, campaigners, followers and sympathizers of the party which does not receive a majority vote in the 16 May elections." They also agree to support "during the next 4-year term of the constitutional government the measures adopted by the ruling party aimed at achieving the Dominican Republic's integral development and democratization, which must be based on the strengthening of institutions and the principles characterizing our republican state."

ELECTORAL BOARD APPROVES CANDIDACIES

FL291954Y Santo Domingo Radio Clarin in Spanish to Listerners Abroad 1905 GMT 29 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Santo Domingo--The Central Electoral Board yesterday issued five resolutions approving the candidacies of five political parties for the presidency and vice presidency of the republic in the May elections. The board approved the candidacies for president and vice president of the republic of Juan Bosch and Rafael Albuquerque for the Dominican Liberation Party, Silvestre Antonio Guzman Fernandez and Jacobo Majluta for the Dominican Revolutionary Party, Luis Julian Perez and Carlos Jimenez Meson for the National Salvation Movement, Doctors Jaime Manuel Fernandez and Milciades Herrera Baez for the National Conciliation Movement and Elias Wessin y Wessin and Rafael Rosario Galan for the Democratic Quisqueyan Party.

Wessin y Wessin has been in exile for years. With the approval of his presidential candidacy in the next elections, it is not known if there is a legal mechanism which would force the government to allow his return to this country.

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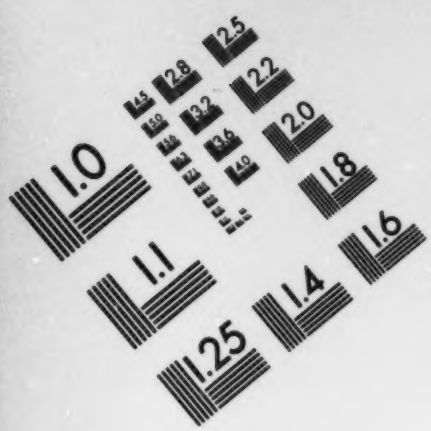

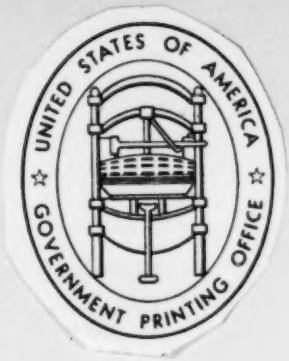

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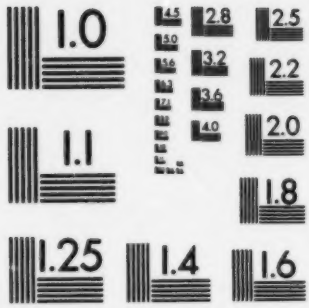

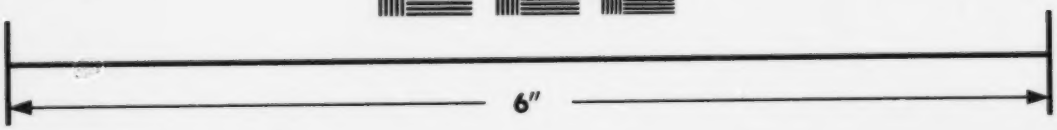

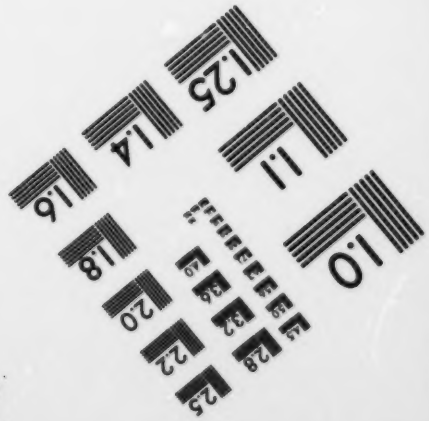

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